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SCARCITY AND RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT IN BENGAL.

From 14th November to 18th December 1873.

NARRATIVES 1 TO 6.

HEAD ASSISTANT'S FILE.

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No. 3444, dated Calcutta, the 14th November 1873.

From—R. KNIGHT, ESQ., Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal,
To—The Secretary to the Govt. of India, with His Excellency the Viceroy—Agra.

I AM directed to forward herewith *copies of a Narrative* of the transactions of this Government in connection with the drought of the present season.

*Three copies with enclosures.

Six copies have been despatched by this day's mail to His Grace the Secretary of State for India, as per verbal instructions of His Excellency the Viceroy.

A. C. M.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

No. 3450.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, INDIA OFFICE.

Calcutta, the 14th November 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

UNDER instructions from His Excellency the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor directs me to forward copies of the Weekly Narrative* regarding the failure of the crops and the anticipated scarcity in Behar and parts of Bengal.

* Up to the 14th November.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF THE DROUGHT OF 1873, TO 14TH NOVEMBER, 1873.

1. DURING three consecutive years, the weather in Bengal has been abnormal. In 1871 the rainfall was excessive—24 inches at Calcutta above the average of previous years. In spite, however, of an excessive rainfall, the crops were very good. It was said in the annual report for the year, that "the season 1871-72 was comparatively unfavorable for what are called dry crops; but as rice is the main staple of these provinces, the general result of the season was certainly good."

In 1872, on the other hand, the rainfall was deficient—29 inches at Calcutta below the average of previous years. In spite, however, of this deficiency, the crops were very good in Bengal, and not bad in Behar. Although extraordinarily scanty, the rain was happily distributed both in time and place.

The year 1873 has again been dry, and dry almost beyond precedent. Not only has the rainfall been deficient, but what rain there has been, has been unfortunately distributed. The hilly country south of the Ganges along its whole line has had more than an average fall; indeed, so heavy were the rains at one time in this part of the country, that the early rains crop was much damaged by excess of rain. Even in Gya and Patna, the early rains crop suffered heavily from rain and floods, which came at an unfortunate time.

This excessive fall did not extend north of the Ganges. On the contrary, in North Behar and almost the whole of Bengal the rain has been far below the average, the greatest deficiency being in the districts north of the Ganges both in Bengal and Behar. For instance, the fall of rain from the 1st January to date in parts of the Rajshahye Division and in North Tirhoot, with an average for the same period, of 84 and 44 inches respectively, has only been 26 to 30 inches. In Calcutta, the fall to date has been 44 inches against an average of 68 inches.

Throughout the country, the absence of storms and showers in April and May, and the late commencement of the rains, deferred the preparation of the lands and the sowing and planting out of the crops till some apprehension was felt regarding the success of those operations. On the 1st July the rainfall from 1st January at the chief centres of Calcutta, Patna, and Dacca, had been, as compared with the average of previous years, as follows:—

	Up to 30th July, 1873.	Average of previous years.
Calcutta	11·10	24·80
Patna	4·71	9·86
Dacca	18·65	33·19

The season was abnormally hot. There was registered in Calcutta a higher temperature than had been registered during many previous years.

2. But late seasons are not always bad seasons for the crops; and though complaints of want of a sufficient quantity of rain continued to be made from certain districts, the general aspect of affairs, from the commencement of the rains in the latter end of June up to the middle of September, was on the whole not unpromising. The dryness of the season and the lateness of the sowings, formed the subject of demi-official communications between His Excellency the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor. The latter anticipated that if the usual rain fell, no irreparable damage would be done by the singular lateness of the rains. Such seasons had not been uncommon, and wherever the rains subsequently ran their usual course had not proved unpropitious. This anticipation was verified by the result to a certain point, for up to the middle or end of September the prospect was not at all gloomy, taking the country as a whole.

3. In the last days of June and the early days of July, the Lieutenant-Governor visited Northern Bengal, travelling by boat down the Teesta and Brahmapootra from Julpigoree to Goalundo. The state of the crops in that part of the country was not during his progress made the subject of complaint until his arrival at Goalundo, where he found everything very backward.

4. But though the general aspect of the crops was not unpromising, the accounts from Behar did not become more favorable till the middle of July; while from Purneah and Dinagepore unfavorable reports continued to be made up to the second week in August.

From Purneah, in beginning of August, bad accounts were received. The Magistrate reported that the outturn of the *bhadoi* (or September) crop would be bad, and that unless heavy rain fell within the next three weeks, there would be a failure of the rice crop in the sub-divisions of Arrareah and Kissengunge. He was directed to keep himself thoroughly well informed of the condition of the people of his district, and prepare himself to meet any distress which might arise, if the contingency anticipated of no rain falling within three weeks should actually occur. Rain however came, and the aspect of affairs improved greatly.

5. With the beginning of September came the harvest of the *bhadoi* crops in Behar, chiefly Indian-corn and *murwa* (a small millet); and of the *aus* crop in Bengal, almost entirely rice. Neither of these crops was an entire failure anywhere, and in many districts the outturn was tolerably good. In parts of Behar injury had been done by heavy rains and floods in the beginning of August; in parts of Bengal scarcity of water affected the outturn; but in some districts, such as Nuddea, where this crop supplies a large proportion of the food of the people, the outturn was good; and in North Behar scanty rain seems to have been not altogether unfavorable to the early crop. This early crop is, however, almost everywhere except in Nuddea a comparatively small crop. During September the accounts of the late rice known as *aghani* in Behar, *amun* in Bengal, continued favorable. With the last week of September came complaints of want of water from several districts, but such injury was not generally done that the usual October rain would not have remedied.

6. The position, then, at the end of September was this: the rains had commenced late, and had not been as heavy as usual. The early rains crop had been below the average on the whole, but by no means a failure. The late rains crop was late, but on the whole promised fairly; in some districts it promised so very well that the ryots reckoned on a bumper crop, and sold off their old stocks. The rains had ceased for a time—not an unusual occurrence, and the people were looking forward to a full downfall in October. Although experience of former years had taught them that serious scarcity and distress, if not famine, would be the result of a total cessation of the rains, yet they had been so often saved from ruin by falls in October, that they were not very apprehensive of disaster. Prices had not as yet risen; indeed, were lower than in the same month of the year preceding.

7. But as the days of October wore on and no rain came, apprehension increased. While anxiously watching the rain and crop reports, the Lieutenant-Governor was loath to give unnecessary alarm. When a considerable portion of October had passed without rain he became alarmed. He thought the time had come when it was necessary to take more than ordinary precautions, to obtain the best information, and ordered a circular which was issued on 13th October, and which directed that the crop and prices-current returns regularly submitted should be supplemented by further reports giving fuller details of the food-supplies of the country.

Circular No. 70, dated the 13th October, 1873.

The following were the specific questions contained in the circular :—

(1) Whether the district (or tract) is devoted to food-growing crops, and what proportion (if considerable) of its land is taken by any staples other than food.

(2) Whether it exports or imports food ; and if it imports, from where.

(3) What are the main food-staples of the people; and, roughly, in what proportion they are consumed.

(4) What are the various rice crops of the district or tract (such as *aus*, or *amun dhan*, &c.); at what season are they reaped; and, roughly, what proportion of the whole rice produce each crop represents in an average year.

(5) The estimated outturn for the present year of each important food-crop which has reached or approached maturity (the different rice crops being distinguished):

(*a*) As compared with an average year (*e.g.*, half or three-quarters, as the case may be).

(*b*) As compared with any previous short year which can be named.

(6) State and prospects of the ensuing cold weather food-crops, and the degrees to which people may be expected to derive support from them.

(7) Date, under favorable circumstances, of sowing and reaping of the earliest rice-crop of 1874, and the extent to which the cultivation might be increased to meet a pressing demand.

8. On the 16th of October the Lieutenant-Governor demi-officially communicated to the Viceroy his fears that the consequences would be very serious if the rains should not return. He said—"The reports we have from Northern and Central Bengal and the whole of Behar are as bad as they can be; from East, West, and South Bengal, they are bad. There is an area north of the Ganges, comprising most of the Rajshahye Division, Purneah, and North Tirhoot, in which the rain has been extraordinarily short, and in which, I fear, nothing can now save us from great dearness and distress. If the next two or three weeks should pass without good rain, the consequences in these districts would be painful; and I may say the same of all Behar, where the *rubbee*, or cold weather crop, which is there an important resource, could not in that case be sown. Rain cannot be withheld unless we are really doomed to such a year as only occurs once in a very long period."

At the same time the Board of Agency of the East Indian Railway were requested to keep the local officers, through whose jurisdiction their railway passes, informed of the movements of grain upon it. It has been ascertained that during the latter half of October very large consignments of rice were sent up by the East Indian Railway from Bengal to Behar; but that on the last two days of October the rice-market of Calcutta became much unsettled; prices rose greatly and fluctuated somewhat; and the upward rice trade is still slack.

9. Meantime the reports from the Commissioners became more alarming. The Commissioner of Patna telegraphed and wrote that there was no rain, nor sign of rain. The Commissioner of Rajshahye reported a panic in the district of Bograh, where rice had risen from 24½ to 12½ seers to the rupee within two days. It fell, however, to 18 seers within two or three days afterwards. The Commissioner of Rajshahye added—"Now I fear rain would do little good, and there is no probability of any further fall."

Letter No. 50J, dated Hazareebaugh, the 22nd October 1873.

10. When it became clear that, whether rain fell or not, there would be serious deficiency in the crop, while in the absence of rain the consequences might be still more serious, it seemed that the time had come when the Government of India should be officially warned of the disaster which might be impending. Accordingly, on the 22nd October, the Lieutenant-Governor wrote to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Agricultural and Commercial Department, that "it was now impossible to avoid the gravest apprehensions of general scarcity throughout the country, and worse evils in large parts of it." Of the Patna Division, he

wrote: "Not only is much of the rice crops irreparably gone, and much of the remainder almost gone, but the continued drought has given rise to the greatest fear for the cold weather crops, which are an important staple in the Patna division. If there is no rain in the next few days, and the *rubbee* sowings do not give immediate employment and hopes for the future, distress and difficulty of a serious character may be almost immediate in this division." Of Northern Bengal and North East Behar he wrote: "In parts of this usually moist tract the rainfall has hardly exceeded that which is usual in the driest parts of the North-West Provinces. It is in this tract that the greatest failure has taken place. Possibly, in the moister and less populous parts even failure may not be so complete and ruinous as further west; but in the west of this tract there may be said to be already panic." Of Eastern Bengal he said: "It will be a very bad feature in the case if, as is feared, the crops are there so short that the usual exports are impossible." Of the Western Bengal districts, the Lieutenant-Governor was unable to give any favorable report. Of Orissa and the southern seaboard districts of Bengal only could he entertain good hope of a favorable outturn. He asked for authority to make immediate arrangements for relief works, and to import grain for the laborers where necessity arose. He also recommended strongly that the export of grain to foreign countries should be prohibited. Copy of this letter is annexed.

11. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor had determined to visit the most threatened divisions and personally confer with the local officers. On his way to Patna on the 27th October, the Lieutenant-Governor received a telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy, to which he replied that he thought things looked as bad as possible. On the receipt of this telegram and of the letter of this Government of the 22nd October above referred to, His Excellency the Viceroy decided to return to Calcutta at once, and telegraphed to the Lieutenant-Governor at Patna to this effect.

12. The Lieutenant-Governor reached Patna on the 27th September, and there conferred with the Commissioner and local officers and gentlemen of local experience. He had here an opportunity of consulting: all the district officers, with the exception of the Magistrate-Collector of Chumparun; Mr. Levinge, the Superintendent of the Soane Irrigation Works; Messrs. Fox and Milne of the Firm of Messrs. Thomson and Fox, large landholders in the Shahabad district; the Manager and Assistant Manager of the Durbungah Estate; and European and Native gentlemen from both sides of the Ganges. The result of the Lieutenant-Governor's inquiries are embodied in a note which he recorded on the 29th October, of which a copy is annexed. All that could be learned regarding the crops was very unfavorable, as the Lieutenant-Governor said "the general tendency of opinions is very gloomy." But he added this gleam of comfort "There has been little symptom of panic. Rice in most places has not reached a famine price."

The Lieutenant-Governor recorded his views on the subject of relief works and the importation of grain as follows:—

"The general rule I would follow would be, not to import on the part of Government to supply the general market and to compete with the traders in a part of the country where there are active traders, as is here the case; but to import for relief works, so that relief of this kind should be a relief given by a clear addition to the resources of the affected tract, and not by taking food from one man to give to another. I think that all the local officers should set themselves to devise the means by which food for the purpose I have indicated may be transported to the parts where they see the greatest prospect of a necessity for large relief works. Meantime, although, while people are occupied in the attempt to save crops still alive, and there is a possibility of *rubbee* sowings, there will probably be little or no seeking for labor, I much feel the truth of what the Commissioner and several officers have said, that there is much danger that people will keep away from relief

works till they are half-starved, and I believe we cannot too soon open works sufficient to—

(1.) Accustom the people to the knowledge that work is available to them.

(2.) Test the state of the country.

Authority was accordingly at once given to open works wherever it might be needed, the plans having been already prepared, in accordance with previous precaution, under orders issued in June 1872.

The conditions under which, and the objects with which, work was to be undertaken are set forth in the note.

On the whole, the result of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Bankipore was by no means reassuring.

13. On the 29th October the Lieutenant-Governor proceeded to Bhaugulpore, where he met the district officers and such other officers of the division as on short notice could be collected. The result of his inquiries was much the same as that of the Bankipore consultation, as recorded in his note of the 29th; and instructions of a similar import were given verbally, and were afterwards repeated in writing in the letter of the 3rd November, after the Lieutenant-Governor had received the Commissioner's report and suggestions, which that officer prepared after the meeting at Bhaugulpore on the 30th October.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor was unable to prosecute his tour to Moorshedabad as he had at first proposed, on account of the return to Calcutta of His Excellency the Viceroy. But he had an opportunity of conferring with the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan on his way down, before the arrival of the Viceroy, whom he accompanied from Burdwan to Calcutta. The instructions given to these Commissioners were in substance the same as those given to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, and recorded in the note of the 29th. His Excellency the Viceroy, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor, reached Calcutta on Friday, the 31st.

15. While he was at Patna, the Lieutenant-Governor received telegraphic information that the Government of India had sanctioned, by the Resolution of Public Works Department No. 431BC, dated 28th October 1873, the active prosecution of the Soane Canal project and the commencement of work upon the Northern Bengal Railway. He was able to arrange at once with Mr. Levinge for the authorised extension of the former project, and to telegraph instructions to the engineers charged with the latter. The Resolution above referred to suggested the advisability of reducing the rates of freight on the Bengal Railways for the carriage of food-grains. It also referred to the Gunduck embankment scheme as one which might now be taken up as a relief work. One of the first things done by His Excellency the Viceroy on his arrival was to arrange for the reduction of the railway rates for food-grains to $\frac{1}{8}$ pie per maund per mile, the Government recouping to the Railway Company the difference between the ordinary and special rate. On examining the Gunduck embankment scheme, the Lieutenant-Governor recommended that project, and it has been sanctioned.

In prosecution of the instructions issued to the Commissioners with whom he had conferred, and in pursuance of the authority for the prosecution of public works in the distressed districts, conveyed by the resolution of the Government of India of 28th October above mentioned, the Lieutenant-Governor, on 3rd November, recorded and circulated a resolution, of which a copy is annexed. It will be seen that these orders convey authority for the fullest extension of public works in the distressed districts as soon as work is wanted by the people—that being the mode of relief which, in the present stage of affairs, has commended itself to the Governments of India and Bengal.

16. On the 7th November His Excellency the Viceroy published in a *Gazette Extraordinary* a resolution reviewing the orders which had already

been passed in connection with the impending scarcity, and expressing the views of the Government of India on the policy to be adopted in the crisis which had occurred. A copy is annexed.

17. Before this resolution was published, the Lieutenant-Governor had again, in his letter No. 3300, dated November 7th, pressed upon the Government of India his view that all exportation of food-grains from at least Bengal ports should be prohibited. The Lieutenant-Governor showed that the annual export from Calcutta of rice alone is 350,000 to 400,000 tons; that as much as 94,000 maunds had been passed for export from Calcutta between the 1st and 7th November, 1873; and that the annual export from the ports of Morrellgunge and Chittagong was fully 70,000 tons. Since sending this letter, the Lieutenant-Governor has received intimation that 11,000 maunds of rice were exported from Chittagong between 8th and 11th November, and that the exportable surplus of the Balasore district (about 22,000 tons a year) is being bought up by Madras merchants for export to the Maldive and Laccadive islands, Ceylon, and the Madras Presidency. While this narrative was passing through the press, the orders of the Government of India have been received, to the effect that His Excellency the Viceroy cannot agree to prohibit exportation from Bengal ports, and that he looks to the high prices to check exportation, to bring Burmah rice to Bengal, and in fact practically to stop the export of the commoner sorts of rice.

18. On some points the Lieutenant-Governor felt obliged to solicit more definite instructions than were contained in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November. He wished instructions as to the extent to which he should make preparations for relieving distress possible but not certain. There were elements of uncertainty regarding the future which it was impossible to ignore, and it was necessary to decide whether the worst which might possibly happen should be provided for. In the event of its being decided that the Lieutenant-Governor was to make preparation to meet the worst that might befall, then it was pointed out that he was hardly sufficiently master of the situation to be able to act as it would be necessary to act. He asked to be instructed how far it was desirable that he should at present go in preparation for relief, and how much he might spend in the purchase of food, means of transport, &c. On consideration, the Lieutenant-Governor applied for a famine credit of 50 lacs of rupees (£500,000), against which this Government might draw. Copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's letter No. 3379 of 10th November is annexed.

The reply of His Excellency the Viceroy is not yet in the hands of this Government; but the Government of India has not thought proper to give this Government any famine credit, deeming that the expenditure must in the first instance be debited to provincial funds. As regards preparations for possible relief, the view of His Excellency the Viceroy is that, except in the event of extraordinary local emergency, such preparations should be confined to relief works, and that stores for eventual charitable relief need not yet be made.

19. The Lieutenant-Governor had been in frequent personal communication with His Excellency the Viceroy, and on 10th November, by His Excellency's desire, he waited on His Excellency at Government House with several of the principal officers of this Government, and a meeting was held at which the various measures to be adopted towards averting impending distress were fully discussed. It is understood that the result of these discussions is about to be communicated to this Government along with a reply to the letter No. 3379, dated 10th November, mentioned above. Having settled so much, His Excellency the Viceroy left Calcutta on the 12th instant. The further orders which the Lieutenant-Governor has felt authorized to issue, are now in course of preparation, and will be detailed in the next weekly narrative.

20. It will be convenient at this point to review the weather and its effect upon the crops from the middle of October, when the accounts sent to the Lieutenant-Governor were such as to create his serious apprehension.

In the latter part of September and first part of October up to the 18th, there had been nothing but very partial showers in Bengal, and next to none in Behar. In fact, in Behar in the last half of September there had only been showers in one or two very limited spots, and none at all in October.

Clouds had continually gathered, especially in Bengal, and given hope of rain, but those hopes were as continually disappointed.

When the Lieutenant-Governor wrote in October, a north wind had driven away all prospect of rain, and there was every appearance of the dry cold weather having been set in.

Yet again in the latter part of October and even in the beginning of November, the clouds gave hope of rain, and some showers fell in Bengal. The showers in October were extremely light and partial. On the 3rd and 4th November we had better hopes. From several places reports of rainfall, almost considerable, were received. Though there was no rain in Calcutta, heavy showers fell at several places in the neighbourhood, and it was at one time hoped that the fall might prove to be pretty general.

Those hopes were, however, for the most part disappointed. It proved that the showers were everywhere local and partial, and that they did not extend to Behar. Even where the amount of rain was appreciable, the local authorities would not admit that it was enough very materially to benefit the late rice. Still, undoubtedly in several parts of the Presidency and Dacca Divisions there was rain of some benefit, and there were also some showers at places in the Burdwan and Rajshahye Divisions. Not more than a few drops fell in the eastern border of Behar.

Even if the showers in various parts of Bengal did not suffice to improve the rice, it is admitted that they may benefit the sowings for the cold weather crops. On the whole, it may be said that in the last three weeks the prospects in Bengal generally have a little improved, while in Behar and the northernmost part of Bengal there has been nothing to mitigate the drought, and the failure of the hope of rain has so far verified gloomy anticipations.

The latest Weekly Report of the weather and crops is sent with this Narrative.

21. It is at present not possible to give an accurate estimate of the loss of crops through drought. Some answers to the Circular No. 70, dated 13th October, above (paragraph 7) referred to, have been received, but their contents have not yet been sufficiently digested. Suffice it now to say that, "roughly speaking," extreme failure of crops will probably be confined to—

(1) All the districts of the Patna division;

(2) All the districts of the Bhaugulpore Division, except the Sonthal Pergunnahs;

(3) The districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bograh, and parts of Rajshahye, Maldah, and Moorshedabad in the Rajshahye Division.

In other districts there will be short crops, but in the districts above named the whole yield of all the food-crops of 1873-74 are estimated to be (unless copious rain falls at a very early date) less than three-eighths of the yield of an ordinary average crop, and relief works on a more or less extended scale will be required soon. There are other districts or parts of districts where the crop has been short, and where relief works may be eventually required; such, for instance, as the Maunbhoom district, much of the Burdwan Division, and some limited portions of the Presidency Division. But in all these districts it is hoped that the harvests all round will give half an ordinary year's yield. In Dacca, Mymensing, and Tipperah the crop is still reported much below an average, but it is not probable that the agriculturists will be reduced to want. Sylhet, Chittagong, Noakhally, Backergunge, and Orissa have fair average crops, and will, as usual, have a large exportable surplus, which might be diverted to other districts of Bengal. Already

intelligence has been received that Assam, which usually imports, is now exporting rice to Bengal. It may be noted that the population of tracts (above noted) where the failure of crops will be extreme is about 25 millions.

22. The above is a brief review of the general action taken by the Government of Bengal in face of the impending scarcity of food. Some minor measures remain to be noted. The temporary abolition of all road toll-bars and tolls on ferries which can in dry weather be crossed by a ford or causeway, has been ordered; while, where boats must be used, the tolls are to be reduced to the lowest tariff which will remunerate the boat-men. Further, the Government has put a steamer and flats to ply in the Ganges from Kooshtea to Rajshahye; has ordered a small light draught steamer, with flats, to ply on the inland waters of Rajshahye; and has directed the formation of bullock trains on certain traffic routes in Rajshahye for the carriage of railway material and of food-grains to depôts. Various minor road works which it is unnecessary to particularize have been sanctioned in different districts. On other occasions when parts of Bengal have been afflicted by famine, the want of subordinate native establishments, such as exist in other Indian provinces, had been greatly felt. The Lieutenant-Governor had made some attempt to supply this want in his scheme for subordinate establishments lately sanctioned by the Government of India. He now warned local officers that the new establishments should be fully utilised in work connected with the impending scarcity.

23. In regard to the food-supply of the distressed districts, His Excellency the Viceroy has laid down the general rule that Government must trust to the trade and to the improved means of communication for the natural flow of food from other parts of India to make up the deficit in Behar and Northern Bengal. At the same time His Excellency has authorized the Lieutenant-Governor to arrange for supplying and storing food at centres of relief works where many labourers are likely to be gathered together, and where the local supplies must be insufficient to bear any extra strain. The Government of India is operating in the Burmah and other markets outside India, while the Government of Bengal and its officers are buying some grain and contracting for much more to be stored at centres in the distressed districts for use on relief works. The restrictions on the manner of procuring these supplies are that the grain must be brought from a distance outside the distressed districts, and that Government officers must work through the local traders as far as possible. As yet an expenditure up to almost 23 lakhs of rupees (£230,000) has been sanctioned for this object; but it is expected that Bengal officers will not expend this large sum for some time. The sources of supply are expected to be Backergunge, Sylhet, Chittagong and Orissa for rice, and Northern and Central India for wheat and other grains. Arrangements for storing these supplies are at once to be made at selected centres near the larger relief works.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 14th November, 1873.

No. 70, dated Calcutta, the 13th October 1873.

From—C. BERNARD, ESQ., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Statistical Department,

To—All Commissioners and District Officers.

THE early cessation of the rains having unhappily given reason to fear that in many Districts some of the crops will be very short, the Lieutenant-Governor desires that particular care should be taken to keep Government fully informed of the actual result of the harvest in the different parts of the country, so far as can be ascertained. His Honor does not wish to have minute inquiries made, but District and Sub-Divisional Officers are desired to see the crops as much as possible themselves while yet on the ground, so as to form the best estimate they can of the proportionate yield of such description of crop and of the food-crops generally, as compared with average and previous years. Agriculturists are so apt to exaggerate their losses that the greatest care should be taken to ascertain accurately the real yield of the harvest at the time, so as to be able hereafter to check their estimates. The success with which this work is accomplished must depend much on the activity and good sense of individual officers, and the Lieutenant-Governor would urge on them the importance of carefully attending to the instructions given. Of course the state of things will often vary much in different parts of the same District, and it will be the duty of the District Officer to compare and compile the report from his various subordinates, and in forwarding a summary of them to give a general view of the aspect of affairs.

2. The weekly weather and crop report should be prepared with special care, and during the period from now up to the end of the harvest, the particulars given in the column "State and prospect of the crops at date" should be more than ordinarily full and accurate. Further, the Lieutenant-Governor desires that in the first weeks of November, December and January, a special crop report should be sent for each District by the Magistrate-Collector, showing in greater detail what is known of the state of the crops at the time. These reports should be in duplicate, one copy being sent to the Bengal Office direct, and the other to the Commissioner. The price-current statement should also be prepared with particular care at the present season; recent price-currents received from Districts, where serious failure of the crops was said to be imminent, have showed no sign of rising prices.

3. Although much has lately been said in the Annual Report regarding the produce and circumstances of various Districts, the Lieutenant-Governor is desirous of having precise information concerning the nature and extent of the gross yield in a uniform shape. Officers are, therefore, requested to furnish the following particulars, not only for their whole Districts, but separately for each considerable part of their Districts, which may have any very special features of its own :—

(1) How far the District (or tract) is devoted to food-growing crops, and what proportion (if considerable) of its land is taken by any staples other than food.

(2) Whether it exports or imports food; and if it imports, from where.

(3) What are the main food-staples of the people, and, roughly, in what proportions they are consumed.

(4) What are the various rice-crops of the district or tract (such as *aus* or *amun* dhan, &c.); at what season are they reaped, and, roughly, what proportion of the whole rice produce each crop represents in an average year.

(5) The estimated outturn for the present year of each important food-crop which has reached or approached maturity (the different rice-crops being distinguished)—

a.—As compared with an average year (*e.g.*, half or three-quarters as the case may be).

b.—As compared with any previous short year which can be named.

(6) State and prospects of the ensuing cold weather food-crops, and the degree to which people may be expected to derive support from them.

(7) Date, under favorable circumstances, of sowing and reaping of the earliest rice-crop of 1874, and the extent to which the cultivation might be increased to meet a pressing demand.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to be supplied with these particulars, as far as possible, in the special report for the first week of November, the information being repeated with improved exactness in the reports of the following months; and His Honor hopes that all officers will give special care and attention to the matter, and endeavour to give accurate and full information on the points above noticed.

A. C. M.

No. 50T, dated Hazareebaugh, the 22nd October 1873.

From—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the General and Revenue Department,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

As long as there was any hope that the fall of rain, which frequently occurs in October, would very much alter the whole state of things, the Lieutenant-Governor has refrained from officially addressing the Government of India on the subject of the apprehensions which the crop reports have made manifest. Till now we could only wait and hope. But the time has come when it is the Lieutenant Governor's very painful duty to report that throughout the greater part of these provinces the shortness and early cessation of the rains has caused irreparable injury, and that in the absence of all symptom of any return of rain up to this date, 22nd October, it is impossible to avoid the gravest apprehensions of general scarcity throughout the country, and worse evils in large parts of it.

2. The most immediate fear appears to be for the very thickly-populated Patna Division. Except in the north-east portion, the total rainfall of that division has not, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, been so much below the average as in other parts of these provinces, but it has been distributed in the most unfortunate manner. Here, as elsewhere, the rains were extraordinarily late; when they came they were so heavy in some parts of the division that very great injury was reported to have been done to the early crop, called locally the bhadoi, (Indian-corn and the like) by excessive rain; at some places it was even said to have been entirely ruined. The late rice crop, however, seems to have been pretty well started everywhere except in the north-east, and if the rains had lasted as long as usual, the result might have been fair. Unhappily the rains may be said to have closed before the middle of September, and the crop already very late has more and more suffered, the hope of saving it gradually diminishing as time passed without rain, and being now reduced to the lowest, since the October rains have so far failed and seem likely to fail altogether. Not only is much of the rice crops irreparably gone and much of the remainder almost gone, but the continued drought has given rise to the greatest fear for the cold weather crops, which are an important staple in the Patna Division. If there is no rain in the next few days, and the rubbee sowings do not give both immediate employment and hopes for the future, distress and difficulty of a serious character may be almost immediate in this division.

3. Throughout almost the whole of the remainder of these provinces the rains have been not only very late to commence and very early to cease, but have been in quantity below the average in amount to an extraordinary degree. This has been most markedly the case in the tracts north of the Ganges and near the Himalayas; which are usually great rice-producing countries, the north-east of Behar, the north of Bengal, Dinagepore, Rungpore, and about the whole of the Rajshahye Division. In parts of this usually moist tract the rainfall has hardly exceeded that which is usual in the driest parts of the North-West Provinces. It is in this tract that the greatest failure has taken place. Possibly in the moister and less populous parts even failure may not be so complete and ruinous as farther west; but in the west of this tract there may be said to be already panic.

4. In Calcutta and the neighbouring districts the rainfall has been below the average to an extraordinary degree. The tanks about the Lieutenant-Governor's residence have never once been half filled. The rain was, however, well distributed so long as it lasted, and there have been in these parts a few irregular and partial showers here and there in the first half of October. There seem to be reason to hope that in the moister districts, *e.g.*, the 24-Pergunnahs, the crop may so far escape that, though injured, it

will not wholly fail. In Western Bengal, where the soil is higher and drier, the apprehensions are of a much graver character. In Eastern Bengal, usually the granary of these provinces, we may hope that there will be no actual want of grain for local consumption; but it will be a very bad feature of the case if, as is feared, the crops are there so short that the usual exports are impossible. In Orissa only, the scene of the last great misfortune, there has been good rain in October, and the prospects are good. But Orissa is a very small province, and its surplus supply must be on a comparatively small scale. The rice-producing district of Backergunge also seems to have had rain.

5. Hope of a late fall of rain has hitherto so much buoyed people up and kept down prices that it is impossible yet to form a confident opinion of the actual results; but the time has come when within a very short period, the fate of the crops throughout the country generally must be known. The Lieutenant-Governor has already taken every means to obtain information, and now that the issue cannot be long doubtful, he is about to go to take counsel on the spot with the Commissioner of Patna, and otherwise to made such inquiries and arrangements as circumstances may suggest.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that if, unhappily, the necessity is undoubted, he may have authority to make immediate arrangements for relief works and any importations which may seem possible and are not likely to be effected by private enterprise. He trusts that immediate authority will be given to him to exercise his discretion in this respect.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor also begs to suggest that the export of rice to foreign countries from the Indian dominions should be stopped. In the face of a general failure in Bengal, any supply that could be derived from British Burmah, the Godavery and Kistna districts, and Orissa, would go but a very little way; and if, as is believed, the premature cessation of the rains has extended to the North-Western Provinces, we probably cannot expect help from that quarter. If any change due to an unexpected rainfall should occur, it must be before orders can be passed on this letter, and such a measure as the stoppage of foreign exports carried into effect. If before then no rain has fallen, every grain of rice will be wanted.

W. E. B.

Patna, Oct. 29th, 1873.

I HAVE now had the advantage of discussing the food prospects of this division with the Commissioner, with local officers of most of the districts, and with several persons, European and native, who have a good knowledge of the country.

The season may still be very materially affected by an early fall of rain, but there is so little prospect of this, that we must face the question on the supposition that there will be no rain in time for the rubbee sowings.

In this view, I fear there is entire unanimity that the prospects are extremely bad, at least as bad as, if not worse, than any year within recent memory. Except in very low-lying places, and in the lands near the course of the great rivers subject to flood, there must be very great failure of both the kurreef and rubbee crops—not mere shortness of crops, but disastrous failure; the greater part of the rice lands not producing at all, and the greater part of the rubbee not being sown or not germinating.

I don't feel that we have the means of forming even an approximate estimate of the stocks in hand, or the degree to which, if well distributed, they will suffice to keep the country alive till another harvest. All that can be said is that the general tendency of opinions on this subject is very gloomy. Yet, although the failure has now been for some weeks impending, and the people are thoroughly alive to it, there has been little symptom of panic, and the course of prices has not yet been so unfavorable as we might expect at this season when the country is alarmed to the last degree; rice in most places has not reached what can be called an actual famine price, and the cheaper grains, maize especially, have up to this time been procurable at rates which I may call surprising. Though the "bhadoee" crop, which produces these grains, has been very short in some parts of Behar, it has produced tolerably in others. In the face of the rice failure, wherever there has been much maize, it has been, and I believe is, selling at prices far better than famine prices; in some parts of the country almost cheap, the circumstances considered. I am told that planters and others who desire to lay in stocks have been able to get maize north of the Ganges, not only at comparatively cheap prices, but in considerable quantity. A great peculiarity of the present failure is that it is greatest in the parts of the country which ordinarily export the most food. We cannot tell whether actual want will be most felt in those exporting tracts, where a considerable failure would not bring the food-supply below local wants; or in those other tracts in the division which have hitherto to some extent depended on a large import now cut off. Hitherto, importation from outside has been entirely confined to the districts of the division south of the Ganges, where the shortness of the usual rainfall has been less marked, and the local failure of the crops less complete, than in the northern tracts, and even yet the usual local export from the north to the south has not quite ceased. It should be mentioned however, that exportation from the Nepal Terai into our territories (usually a large source of supply) has been wholly stopped by the Nepal Government on account of the scarcity there. On the whole question of importing food, only this can be said, that the division, as a whole, has begun to import largely from outside, and must continue to import; but to what extent this necessity will go we cannot yet estimate, nor can we tell in what parts of the division food will be most wanted. We do not know whether it will be enough to supply from the outside those parts which usually receive supplies from *within* the division, or whether the parts which usually export very largely, and still export rather than import, must eventually be supplied. All the accounts seem to show the failure of the great rice tracts in the north to be so complete that to supply them will be a great and most difficult task, unless they have great

reserves in hand, such as we cannot trace. The sale of the maize up to this moment is the only symptom which seems to militate against the belief that food in these parts must fail. I very much fear that in some large tracts, as in the north-east of Tirhoot, it is almost impossible that the food-supply can suffice, since in such tracts there is very little grown but rice, and that is a failure. I don't doubt that the tide of trade is turning, and that Durbangah and places similarly situated must import, but to what extent we cannot tell.

We cannot say how soon there may be panic in the grain trade, causing local scarcity and want in many places, long before the stocks are actually exhausted.

As long as there is plenty of rice in Calcutta and the districts from which Calcutta draws supplies, we may presume that if the greatest possible railway and other facilities are afforded, the spontaneous rice import which has already set in, will continue. The question, whether it is necessary to bring rice in great quantities from beyond sea to Patna, depends on the state of the Bengal markets, which we will deal with in Calcutta.

Already it has been arranged that Colonel Burn shall import rice from Calcutta in behalf of the Durbangah estate.

The general food-supply however apart, this is certain, that if no providential rainfall comes very soon, the distress among the poorer classes of this very populous division must be very great indeed, in the course of the many months which must pass before the earliest crop of another rainy season can be reaped. So much is certain. Whatever be the extent of the deficiency of food in the country, and the degree to which it must be imported, it must be very dear, and the poorer classes who have no reserve either of grain or money must be unable to get it without assistance. Relief works all over the country will be clearly necessary.

So long as there is question whether the food in the country and spontaneously flowing into it will suffice if only distributed, and so long as distress has not reached a very extreme point, it may suffice to offer work and pay in money. But when it is evident that the food-supply is wholly deficient, and a large proportion of the population must receive relief, I believe that relief works are of little use unless food is supplied to the laborers. Money then, only raises the price and affects the distribution of food without increasing the total food-supply. It might be that those who work are in this case better off than they otherwise would be; but large classes who do not go to work till they are at the last extremity, and who suffer the most of all, would suffer more than if no work was going.

The general rule I would follow would be, not to import on the part of Government to supply the general market and to compete with the traders in a part of the country where there are active traders, as is here the case; but to import for relief works, so that relief of this kind should be a relief given by a clear addition to the resources of the affected tract, and not by taking food from one man to give to another. I think that all the local officers should set themselves to devise the means by which food for the purpose I have indicated may be transported to the parts where they see the greatest prospect of a necessity for large relief works. Meantime, although, while people are occupied in the attempt to save crops still alive, and there is a possibility of rubbee sowings, there will probably be little or no seeking for labor, I much feel the truth of what the Commissioner and several officers have said, that there is much danger that people will keep away from relief works till they are half-starved, and I believe we cannot too soon open works sufficient to—

1. Accustom the people to the knowledge that work is available to them.
2. Test the state of the country.

Although the greatest distress usually does not come till a good deal later in the season, I think it very probable that as soon as all

hope of farther rubbee sowings is past, there may be many people in want of work, the ordinary field-work being stopped. At any rate there always is in these parts a certain laboring population, and the extent to which works draw this population, and after them tap strata, gradually deeper and deeper, of people not accustomed to ordinary hired labor, will be the surest index to the amount of want in the country. It is an index which must be read with much care and thought. In the early times of scarcity and famine, every one person not accustomed to hired labor who comes to the works, indicates the distress of ten, or it may be a hundred, who have not come. This symptom then must be very narrowly watched.

In this view, I have told the district officers that they should lose no time in commencing ordinary earth-work on roads, &c., at as many places as possible. I am glad to find that their attention has been already given to the point, and they have generally work of some kind ready which can be advantageously undertaken without delay. This they will do, giving the ordinary wages of the country. And by the aid of their general information, and the index afforded by the works in hand, they will judge of the necessity of more extended works and food relief in each part of the country. I have told them that as soon as the demand for labor exceeds the resources of their local funds, money for works where relief is necessary will be supplied without stint. The great thing is that they should prepare beforehand, and peg out (by a centre line only) roads and other works on which relief labor may be expended to the permanent advantage of the country.

I have discussed with the Commissioner, and he will note some poor and isolated tracts in which there is special necessity to be prepared with work.

The canal works will afford very large employment to the people of Shahabad and Gya, and will be rapidly pushed on with that object. I have seen Mr. Levinge, and am sure that he can be depended on to do all that is possible to assist the people in this emergency. He has already done very much by giving irrigation where it had not been expected that we could do so.

The system of roads from west to east, *i.e.*, from Tirhoot towards the labor-absorbing districts of the east, which I have already indicated as a great desideratum to facilitate movements of the population, will be put in hand at once. Mr. Stevens, the Durbhangah Engineer, who has a great knowledge of the country, will undertake the arrangement of these lines so far as they are within this division, and I hope that some of the Engineers of the North Bengal Railway will take them up for the Government.

The Commissioner and Manager have already arranged a large scheme of minor relief works on the Durbhangah estates, and similar preparations should be made on other Wards' estates. The Commissioner will occupy himself in settling the works in the various districts that may best be undertaken. I have authorised the entertainment of special men for the design and superintendence of works. Mr. Bayley is to-day submitting a report, and I hope that his report with this note will give a sufficient summary of the knowledge which we have yet gained of the prospects of the Patna Division.

29-10-73. GEORGE CAMPBELL.

No. 119R, dated Bankipore, the 29th October 1873.

From—S. C. Bayley, Esq, Commissioner of Patna,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

In anticipation of the scarcity which even then seemed probable, I issued on the 7th October a circular to the Collectors of this division calling for information on the state of affairs.

2. I quote the circular here as it supplies the key to the replies :—

"The want of rain during the last six weeks, which has been very general throughout the division, has led in some parts to the total loss of the rice crop, and in other parts to the destruction of a great portion of it. The bhadoi crop has also been a very poor one, speaking generally, and unless rain falls soon there will be insufficient moisture to secure a rubbee crop. Altogether the out-look is a serious one, and it becomes necessary to collect accurate information as far as possible of the state of the country and of the food-supply for the coming year.

"(2.) In the first place, the prices-current must be closely scrutinized and made as accurate as possible. The rates supplied to the district and sub-divisional officers should be tested by their own personal inquiries. Having done this, each Magistrate should inquire as far as possible what exportation has been going on, and whether the stocks of food-grains in hand are large or not; at the same time they should learn whether zemindars are having much difficulty in collecting the present kist. This information will enable them to come to a fair conclusion as to the prospects of the ryots for the coming year, and I shall be obliged by their furnishing me with a full report thereon not later than the 20th October. They should, at the same time, state if in their opinion relief works will be necessary, and what works they are prepared to commence with, and at what cost.

"(3.) I shall also be obliged by their continuing to furnish me demi-officially with fortnightly reports on the same subject.

"(4.) It may be that in most parts of the country no relief works will be necessary; but wherever there is a probability of their being required, it will tend much to prevent waste if plans and estimates are prepared beforehand and arrangements made for having the requisite establishment at hand.

"(5.) Those Collectors in whose districts there are large Court of Wards' estates, should make special recommendations as to the necessity for temporary remissions to the ryots for the relief works to be undertaken by the Court of Wards, and as to the expediency of now importing grain on the part of the estates."

3. I have now received replies from all the Collectors, and beg to annex them for the Lieutenant-Governor's perusal. It is not necessary for me to comment at any length on them, as the Lieutenant-Governor has now seen and questioned all these officers as well as many others likely to be informed on the state of affairs, and has had their views put plainly before him.

4. Speaking generally, I may say that the result is this: in all districts the dhan has failed. In none will there be an eight-anna crop; in some there will not be a two-anna crop. The bhadoi crop was in no district first-rate; in some districts it was destroyed by flood. There is no present prospect of rain, and unless there is rain in the next twenty days the rubbee crop must also be a failure. The stocks of grain vary in different districts and in different parts of the same district, but I have found no one who considers that there is a six months' supply in hand, and there is everywhere a prospect of very great scarcity, which it is feared will deepen into actual famine in the early part of next year. Heavy rain within the next fifteen days may yet save the country from the pressure of extreme distress; but such rain is, in the opinion both of practical agriculturists and of meteorologists, in the highest degree unlikely, and we must, I fear, make up our minds to face a scarcity certainly not less severe than that of 1866.

5. Before passing to the reports of the several districts, I annex below three tables—A. showing the rainfall in each district since 1868; B. showing the average prices of the commonest food-grains during the three last fortnights in each district, together with the latest advices up to date; C. showing (approximately only) the proportion in which the three crops are severally grown in each district:

TABLE A.

Statement showing the Rainfall.

Name of District.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870	1871	1872	1873, up to 11th Oct.
Patna	...	..	...	25·89	44·98	35·70	59·46	31·17	30·49
Gya	...	...	...	...	.....	39·13	48·73	34·97	35·51
Shahabad	...	...	...		48·28	47·27	61·39	35·45	37·72
Tirhoot	...	...	...	.....	.....	78·10	77·02	52·47	28·94 up to 20th Sept.
Sarun	...	...	...	25·71	33·73	42·94	75·67	38·48	33·88
Chumparun	...	...	...	.....	25·75	67·51	59·53	50·29	41·04

The figures are taken from the *Calcutta Gazette* for district head-quarters.

TABLE B.

Statement showing Prices-current in September and first half of October 1873.

District.	Common Rice.			Barley.			Makai.		
	1st half September.	2nd half September.	1st half October.	1st half September.	2nd half September.	1st half October.	1st half September.	2nd half September.	1st half October.
Patna	15·5	15·6	14·12	22·9	22	19·14	25	23	19·3
Gya	14·2	13·8	12·1	22·8	22·12	18·8	21·8	19·12	15·12
Shahabad	15	14·2	13·8	20	17·4	16·8	18·4	19	15·12
Tirhoot	21·3	21·7	18·7	28·9	26·2	25·4	31·9	36	30·3
Sarun	16	15	14·8	23	20	18	22	23·3	23
Chumparun	20·1	20·3	20·10	30	29·13	26·10	26	31·9	32·5

TABLE C.

Proportion in which the three crops (Bhadoi, Khureef, and Rubbee) are generally believed to grow in the several Districts of the Division.

District.	Proportion of land under each crop, out of 16 annas of the lands of the district.			Remarks.
	Bhadoi.	Kharif.	Rubbee.	
1	2	3	4	
	As.	As.	As.	
Patna	2	8	6	Bhadoi lands are also grown with rubbee after the bhadoi crops are reaped, so that strictly speaking the total rubbee lands are made up of columns 2 and 4.
Shahabad	2	6	8	
Gya	2	12	2	
Tirhoot	4	10	2	
Sarun	4	8	4	
Chumparun	6	6	2	

6. In Patna the prospect is less gloomy than in most other districts. The bhadoi, it is true, was nearly ruined by floods in August, except in one part of the district; but the consequent moisture has allowed a considerable breadth of

land to be sown with rubbee, which has germinated and may live till rain comes. The flood also left a fair supply of water in the aharas (reservoirs) with which the remnants of the dhan crop are being assiduously watered. In some places a four-anna dhan crop is estimated, in others a six-anna crop, and in Silao a full crop. Over the centre and west of the district the dhan is very unpromising.

7. By all accounts there is no lack of grain stored.

The Behar sub-divisional officer and the Dinapore Magistrate both say that there is certainly not less than an ordinary supply, while importation has recently been going on very rapidly. The returns I have received show an importation into the Patna district by river of 1,22,114 maunds of food-grains since the beginning of September, and by rail since the same period of 2,34,000 maunds. Now that the price is rising rapidly in Calcutta, and the market is disturbed, it is not at all probable that importation will be carried on at this rate, and it must be remembered that a very large proportion of this grain has gone on to Gya. Still it shows what the bunneahs can do in the way of importation under the pressure of high prices.

8. I may note here for future use that the railway can, I am informed, without greatly disturbing ordinary traffic, send up 200 waggons, or say 40,000 maunds a day.

9. The difficulty of collecting rents is not seriously felt yet. The (Pos) December kist is the heavy kist in all these districts, and especially for the dhan crop; but it must be remembered that in all the three southern districts the dhan crop is grown almost wholly on the bhaolee (or payment in kind) system—a system which, whatever its disadvantages, has this immense gain, that in a bad season it divides the risk between the zemindar and ryot, so that if the ryot gets no crop he at least is free from the payment of any rent.

10. The immediate necessity of relief works is not apprehended, but the Magistrate has in hand Rs. 7,000 laid by for this purpose; and in the report, No. 424 of 27th February 1873, I sent up a list of works which all consist of raising existing roads, and can therefore be begun at any moment. The sum of Rs. 25,000 may be usefully expended on this list, and being well distributed, they will suffice for the early period of distress.

11. The above remarks are, so far as the crops and state of the country go, applicable to Shahabad. The railway importations into this district during the last six weeks have reached a lakh of maunds, and prices are as yet not so high as to occasion alarm. Shahabad, however, has the immense advantage of the unfinished canal. Mr. Levinge determined, under the sanction of Government, and with the concurrence of the district officer, to send water down the canal; and with the assistance of Mr. Eyre, the sub-divisional officer, whose report shows the labor that had to be gone through, an area of some 50,000 acres has now been usefully irrigated. A quarter of this perhaps is land on which the dhan is actually saved, and on the rest a rubbee crop has, I trust, been secured. This, little as it is, is a great boon, and will, I have no doubt, leave a feeling of respect for the canal, which would otherwise have taken a long time to grow.

12. For relief works the canal operations afford the readiest and best means. The Lieutenant-Governor has already directed the Chief Engineer to go on with the Chowsa and Buxar lines, which go through what is perhaps the least flourishing portion of the district, and which will afford ample work to all the labouring population of the district, and to many from a distance. There are moreover several district roads which require to be raised, and on which work may be commenced at once. There is one portion of the district, the south-west corner round about Cheyneporo, in which, from the prices-current, and from what I hear of the condition of the people, I think relief work in the shape of raising the roads should be commenced at once. The Magistrate will be directed to do this.

13. I come now to Gya, which, both from its being less accessible and from the generally lower level of its population, is likely to feel distress earlier and more heavily than either Patna or Shahabad.

Here also over a great part of the country the bhadoi crops were destroyed by the August floods; the rice crop is a poor one—at the most a four-anna crop being expected; and there is good reason to fear that the rubbee (which, however, is a small crop in this district) will be an entire failure. The stock of gram in hand is small. Two or three large zemindars are known to hold very large stocks, but the bunneahs have little; and not more than 20 per cent., I should say, of the cultivating and laboring classes hold stocks enough to keep them going for six months.

14. The prices in this district showed extreme sensitiveness at an earlier period than elsewhere, and though they have not continued to rise, this is explained in the Magistrate's report as owing partly to the interference of the executive authorities, and partly to the large importation that is daily going on from the railway stations in the Patna district. The canal officers have received instructions to endeavour to send water down the unfinished Gya canal, and this will be done at once, but the water cannot be taken further north than Daoudnugger, and the area benefited will be far more limited than in Shahabad.

15. No rent difficulty has yet been felt, and seeing that twelve annas of the whole food-crops of the district is *khureef*, which is almost wholly paid in kind, I do not anticipate that the collection of rent will add materially to the difficulties of the poeple.

16. The Magistrate has submitted plans for relief works in each of his four sub-divisions: most of these are already aligned and can be undertaken at once, and he has been directed to have the others lined out and the land taken up at the earliest possible date. In addition to this, canal works offer more labor than the neighbourhood is ever likely to supply; so that we are able to start relief works as soon as ever an abnormal influx of labor or regular work shows the necessity for it.

17. I may mention here what I have omitted to notice in an earlier portion of this report, that from a comparison of the rainfall of this year with those of 1865 and 1868, as far as I have been able to compare them (and the returns for some districts are not complete), we are likely to feel distress in Gya and in the northern districts very much at the same period as it was felt then, while the prices of grain show a pressure even heavier now than was felt at the same period of 1865. The bhadoi crop has more completely failed in Gya this year than it did then; but on the other hand, the rice crop of the previous season is far better on this occasion than it was in the severe distress of 1866.

18. Turning now to the districts north of the Ganges, I fear more immediate pressure, especially in parts of Tirhoot than in the southern districts.

19. The north-east pergunnahs of Tirhoot are wholly rice-producing and rice-consuming. They have no other crop to fall back upon, and generally export rice largely. Communication is not easy, as they are 40 and 50 miles from the marts on the Ganges. The Nepal plains, which also in ordinary years export rice largely, and on which we might have depended for a supply, are as badly off as our own districts, and exportation from these has been stopped by authority. Last year's supply was only a tolerable one; and though I am informed, that large stocks are held by the mahajuns and others, yet the prices at markets in the Durbhungah sub-division have now risen as high as 10 and 11 seers per rupee, a price which was not reached in 1866 till famine had begun. From the neighbouring sub-division of Seetamarhee exportation is still going on, though I believe only in execution of old contracts. What adds to the difficulty of this portion of the country is, that it is very largely populated by Brahmins and Bahbuns, who will not work, and whom relief works will not attract till they are at the last extremity. On the other hand, the Durbhungah Raj being in the hands of the Court of Wards, places in our hands an organized administrative machinery which will be of the greatest possible assistance.

20. I have already sanctioned as Court of Wards the opening of relief works to the extent of a lakh of rupees, principally on tanks scattered about the eastern pergunnahs; the rest to be spent on roads, bunds, and pynes. The continuation of the Durbhungah and Purneah road is to be pushed on under the

Executive Engineer of Durbhungah, and a northern road *viâ* Nathpore to the Koosie, which forms the usual line of communication between these districts and Julpigoree, is to be undertaken under the Lieutenant-Governor's orders.

I have also directed Colonel Burn to import from Calcutta rice to the extent of Rs. 60,000 at once, and to distribute it at the various tehsils to be used *when absolutely necessary* in paying for relief works, and to prevent any unnatural forcing up of prices. Colonel Burn has suggested that, by way of adding to the food-supply of the district, he should be empowered to lend at 4 per cent. interest to some good Calcutta firm which will undertake the operation, four or five lakhs of rupees to be expended in rice—half to be sold to the Raj at current rates, and half to be sold to dealers in the district. The suggestion deserves consideration, and if a trustworthy firm could be found to undertake the business on these conditions, I am inclined to recommend it.

21. Another suggestion made by the Collector is, that Government should advance sums of money to planters and others who would undertake to expend it in grain, and sell retail to their own ryots. It is, of course, not desirable, if Government have to go into the market, to start opposition purchasers on the same account; but the question depends on the general arrangements which may be made by Government on this point; and as an organisation ready to hand for storing and distributing grain over the whole district, the employment of indigo planters commends itself to me very strongly indeed.

22. The question of fodder promises to be a difficult one; the supply of water is even now falling short, and the most experienced agriculturists fear that the distress among the cattle will be excessive.

23. The details of Sarun and Chumparun differ little from Tirhoot, save that prices have not risen so high; in fact, in Chumparun, they are still what would be considered cheap in any other district.

24. In Sarun there have been second-rate dhan crops for two years, and in one corner of the district (the extreme west) the Hutwa Raj under the Court of Wards has already started relief works. From both districts I hear that there are supplies of grain in store enough to last for several months, but importation into the north of Sarun and into Chumparun will be a matter of considerable difficulty owing to the distance over which grain must be brought either from the river or the rail. Importation from Nepal, as I have said, is stopped, and by all accounts the neighbouring districts of Ghazeepore and Gorruckpore will be quite unable to assist. Consequently, importation for these districts must commence early, even though I do not anticipate extreme severity before January.

25. Relief works in both districts must take the shape of raising and completing roads already laid out, and these works, lists of which are already prepared, can be undertaken at any moment. I am expecting further suggestions as to the assistance which can be given by the Hutwa Raj; but in both these districts the plan recommended of lending money to planters for importation of rice, is one, which if it does not clash with the other arrangements of Government, I should most strongly urge.

26. In Sarun the drainage of the Hurdia Chur, which was recommended in my letter No. 139, dated 27th March, &c., to the Superintending Engineer, and forwarded by him to Government in the Public Works Department, will be a most useful special work in Sarun, and may be undertaken with advantage.

27. The only special measure in Chumparun that I have to note is the Magistrate's suggestion that the Cavalry Regiment at Segowlee, which is down for relief in November, should be allowed to leave the division before the relieving regiment enters it. There need be no fear in leaving the district without a regiment, and it is an object to prevent two regiments being simultaneously quartered on an impoverished district.

28. It is perhaps needless for me, after the Lieutenant-Governor has so fully conferred on the subject with the district officers and others, to make any suggestions for meeting the distress which threatens us; but I note down the following general heads as those under which the principal measures proposed and discussed seem to fall.

Relief Works.

29. These, setting aside canal works and Court of Wards' operations, will principally consist of raising roads and digging tanks. It is essential that we should be ready to commence upon them at the shortest notice, and in cases of existing and aligned roads this can be done. In others the district officers have been directed to lose no time in estimating for them, laying them out, getting possession of the land, and organising a sufficient supervising staff.

(2.) The importation of rice from Calcutta by the Court of Wards to a small extent has been sanctioned. The question of its importation and storing by the Canal Department, Public Works Department, and other District Establishments, has still to be considered.

(3.) I have in the body of this report recommended the immediate advancing of money to planters and others to buy rice and to be sold direct to cultivators, either at cost price or somewhat above it, as circumstances may point out. Many planters are already doing this on their own account.

(4.) I would also recommend an arrangement similar to that adopted in 1869, for lowering the railway rates for carrying food-grain within certain limits.

(5.) The question of remission of revenue will have to be considered by next January. I am quite convinced that unless we can extend the remission, or, as I would prefer to call it, postponement of demands, to the ryot as well as to the zemindar, it will be of no use at all. Former experience has shown how difficult it is to enforce this; and I may mention as an example of the way in which even rich zemindars treat a time of trouble such as this, that Dewan Ramcoomar Sing, one of the wealthiest landholders in the Arrah district, was discovered by Mr. Eyre to be extorting from his ryots four annas a beegah for the water which Government officers are now with great labor passing down the Soane canal, and with which he had absolutely nothing to do.

I see no mean between the employment of an enormous staff to make inquiries previous to granting postponement of revenue and a general suspension for a fixed period, and within fixed limits of the Government demand on the one hand, and of the legal means for enforcing rent demands on the other. I do not think the aspect of affairs is as yet sufficiently black to warrant the latter measure, but the former one I do think is undoubtedly necessary.

(6.) Finally we may have to organize food-centres. The time has not come for this, and I have no personal experience of the lessons which the last famine taught on this subject. I shall be glad, therefore, to receive full instructions on the views of Government in case it may be necessary to start food-centres.

It will be necessary to strengthen the executive staff of this division as largely as can be done with justice to other districts; and all privilege leave, except on urgent medical certificate, should be stopped.

30. I annex a detailed statement of the rainfall, month by month, as far as the records in my office (beginning with 1868, and even then imperfect) will permit.

31. The inquiries called for in the Government circular No. 70, dated 13th October 1873, especially in regard to food-supply, are being still carried on.

32. The reports, which I forward in original to save time, will, I hope, be returned to me. They are noted below.

1. Patna Collector's No. 383 of 20th October.
2. Gya ditto „ 1202 of 20th ditto.
3. Ditto ditto „ 1203 of 20th ditto.
4. Arrah ditto „ 1180 of 24th ditto, with Mr. Eyre's report of irrigation operations.
5. Tirhoot Collector's No. 960 of 8th October.
6. Tirhoot Collector's No. 232 of 22nd October.
7. Ditto ditto „ 231 of 20th ditto.
8. Demi-official, with official enclosure, of 26th October.
9. Sarun Collector's No. 205 of 20th October.
10. Chumparun Collector's demi-official of 20th October.
11. Statement of rainfall.

No. 383, dated Bankipore, the 20th October 1873.

From—A. C. MANGLES, ESQ., Collector of Patna,

To—The Commissioner of Patna.

IN acknowledging receipt of your letter No. 182R of the 7th instant, calling upon me to furnish certain information regarding the present state and future prospects of the district, I have the honor to submit as follows.

2. The different heads under which information is called for may be divided as follows :—

1*st*.—State of the crops, past and present.

2*nd*.—The amount of grain stored.

3*rd*.—The state of the export and import trade in food-grains.

4*th*.—The difficulty or otherwise experienced by the zemindars in the collection of their rents.

5*th*.—As to whether relief works are necessary or not.

So that in submitting my report I will, as far as possible, restrict myself to these headings, and furnish the information so far as I have been able to obtain it sub-division by sub-division.

3. *State of the crops, past and present.*—The bhadoi crop has been almost an entire failure throughout the sudder sub-division owing to the height of the floods ; and if we are to judge from the reports received from the more intelligent of the zemindars who were called upon to furnish them, there was not more than from an half-anna to a four-anna crop throughout the sub-division ; though Amiruddin, an ex-darogah of police, and now a zemindar residing in the Bekram thannah, in the south-west corner of the district, tells me that the marooah, of which an unsually large quantity was sown this year, yielded an abundant harvest, and that the bajrah, of which an immense quantity is sown all along the banks of the Soane, promises a much larger outturn than usual, owing to there having been no rain to wash off the flower. The reports regarding the rice crop are not encouraging, the expected yield being given at from four to eight annas, and that only in the event of our having rain shortly.

The Deputy Collector in charge of Excise reports that in the course of his tours or visits of inspection he has taken the opportunity of enquiring also into the state of the crops, and that though the rice plants on the highlands have died away, those on the lowlands have as yet been kept alive by means of irrigation ; that a certain amount of water still remains in the ahara, so that if we have rain now, he thinks we might expect an eight-anna crop all round, but that if no rains falls within the course of this month, the crop will be almost an entire failure, and we may look for geat scarcity and want.

4. The sub-divisional officer of Dinapore writes that though the Indian-corn crop has not been a good one, it has not caused much uneasiness to the people ; that the rice crop on the highlands has been lost generally throughout the sub-division ; that within the jurisdiction of the Dinapore thannah, much of the rice on the lowlands has been saved owing to the ryots having bunded in the water of the late floods, so that there and in Manair a six-anna crop might be expected ; whilst things are not so favorable within the limits of the Khagoul outpost. That much fear is felt regarding the rubbee crop in the event of our not having rain within the next month, and that in consequence, in some places the ryots have sunk kutcha wells with which to irrigate their lands to allow of their sowing ; but that there still is plenty of moisture in the dearah lands.

5. The sub-divisional officer of Behar informs that the state of things is very different in different parts of his sub-division ; so that whilst in the jurisdiction of the Sillao thannah, owing to its being intersected by several small streams, the prospects of the rice crop are spoken of as being better than usual, in Atta Serai and Hilsa, they are very gloomy, and in many instances the rice has been already cut and given to the cattle ; but he goes on to add " four inches of water will change the aspect of affairs completely."

6. The Barh Deputy Magistrate writes that whilst the badoi crop was almost entirely lost by a superfluity of water, the dhan crop is now being dried up for a want of it, so that even in the event of rain falling immediately, there is no hope of even a moderate crop. That notwithstanding the loss of these two crops the rubbee crop will pull the people through if we have rain soon, but that if it does not fall in the course of the next 25 days a famine is inevitable. That the people are quite aware of the critical state of affairs, and notwithstanding the adverse circumstances, are preparing their lands so as to take advantage of the first fall of rain and put in their seed ; and that in some instances seed has been already sown in the hopes of it germinating.

7. *The amount of grain stored.*—I have experienced great difficulty in obtaining correct information under this head, and Deputy Collector, Syed Amir Hussain, whom I have also employed in the work, seems to have met with no greater success than I have. Everyone in any way connected with land or in grain dealings at once thinks that some harm will result to them if they speak the truth and tell what they have ; the consequence of which is that they give ambiguous answers and try to mislead ; but I think we may rest assured that there is no lack of grain, at present at any rate, in the sudder sub-division. Amiruddin, the gentleman above referred to, informed me that in his part of the country there were large

quantities stored, and that if time were given him he could give the names of those who have it and the quantities; this I have asked him to do.

8. Captain Playfair reports that the stock of grain at Dinapore is not below the average at this season of the year; being about 50,000 maunds in the Dinapore bazar alone.

9. The sub-divisional officer of Behar writes that the grain in store is quite sufficient to meet all the requirements of the people for a year, even if there be an entire failure of the present year's crops; bunneahs, zemindars, and others all over the sub-division having large quantities.

10. From Barh the sub-divisional officer informs that he has been unable to obtain any reliable information under this head, but that he is very much afraid that the stock of grain in store is not very large; that Barh in ordinary years is dependent to a great extent on its imports from Lower Bengal; and that the high prices elsewhere are too tempting to allow of the bunneahs keeping much grain by them.

11. *State of exports and imports.*—As far as I have been able to ascertain, the imports during the last six weeks have far exceeded the exports, and this notwithstanding the large amount of food-grain of various sorts which is daily being exported to Gya by means of carts and pack bullocks. From enquiries made among the city merchants, it would appear that within the last month and a half no less than 27,000 maunds of rice, 3,200 maunds of dhan, 700 of janera, and 1,250 maunds of wheat have found their way into the Patna market by means of the river alone; and to show you what the rail traffic has been during the same space of time I beg to annex a statement prepared on information received from the different station-masters:—

Name of the Station.	Rice.		Wheat.		Jowra.		Gram.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
Patna City	The whole quantity imported was 16,100 maunds, whereof two-thirds was rice from Calcutta and Beerbhoom, and the rest Indian-corn from Bhaugulpore district; and wheat from Delhi, Khoorjeh, and Bhagulpore. The whole quantity of the grain exported was 8,600 maunds, whereof one-fourth was rice exported to Behta and Arrah, and about one-half was dhal, and the rest miscellaneous.							
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Bankipore ...	1,516	622 to Behta.	.....	.....	179	.....	.....	.....
Dinapore ...	10,508	491 to Behta.	1,022	.....	929	.....	205	.....
Behta ...	28,418	.....	.....	.....	358	.....	.....	.....
Futnah ...	1,181	617	.....	.....	2,280	.....	200	682
Buktearpore	.....	1,575 toDinapore.	.....	167	371	.....	.....	910
Barrh ...	Not yet received.							
Mokameh ...	3,031	222	.....	560	.....	180	.....	6,077
Total ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

12. On this head the Dinapore Cantonment Magistrate writes: The export from Dinapore is about 1,000 maunds a month, whilst the import is from 18,000 to 19,000; that owing to the probable rise in the price the merchants are importing largely; that some 15,165 maunds of grain are in store in the Behta, Mongarpal, and Manair thannahs, where the exports amount to about 1,000 maunds, against 2,300 maunds imports.

13. From Behar it is reported that, owing to the panic which has arisen of a pending famine, grain is not being exported; but on the contrary everyone, in addition to keeping what he has got, is laying in as much more as he can lay his hands on. That grain is daily being imported from Barh and elsewhere, and is bought up by people of the middle classes, the shop-keepers and bunneahs having enough already.

14. The information furnished by the Deputy Magistrate of Barh under this head is simply what he has been able to obtain from the different stations along the line of rail lying within the limits of his sub-division, which has been already given you in paragraph 11 of this report.

15. *The difficulty or otherwise experienced by zemindars in the collection of their rent.*—I would premise by saying that this is not the time of year in which rents, with the exception of arrears of the previous years, are generally collected, it being too near the commencement of the Fusli year; so that I can only judge from what the zemindars themselves tell me; and from what I can infer from the way in which they have paid in the last list of Government revenue, they would lead one to believe that they have to contend with the greatest difficulties in the collection of their just dues; but on the other

hand, I find that the Government revenue has been paid in with greater punctuality than usual, which will be seen from the annexed statement, from which we may infer that there has been no tightness in the money market.

Month of the revenue kist.	Number of estates in arrears.	Amount of revenue. Rs.	A.	P.
June, 1872... ...	12	760	11	0
September ,, ...	5	28	0	6
January, 1873...	4	456	2	0
March ,, ...	6	202	13	1
June ,, ...	24	406	11	7
September, 1873	5	41	11	0

16 Captain Playfair informs that up to September the ryots had been paying their rents punctually, but he predicts their having difficulty in doing so any longer unless rain falls within the month.

17. The Deputy Magistrate of Behar reports to the same effect; whilst the Deputy Magistrate of Barh informs that as the rents in his sub-division are payable chiefly in kind, the zemindar taking a proportion of the crop, they (the zemindars) must have suffered equally with the ryots by the loss of the bhadoi and rice crops, and that if now the rubbee fails, they will have to make good the Government revenue from their private pockets.

18. *As to whether relief works are necessary or not.*—All officers are agreed that at present no such works are necessary, but in the meantime I have called upon the Executive Engineer and all sub-divisional officers to select suitable ones in case of need, and have rough estimates prepared as to the cost to be incurred in carrying them out. There are roads all over the district which require raising; so that as Rs. 7,825 have been set aside in the present year's budget estimate for such an emergency, we shall have no difficulty in affording relief, for a short time at any rate, if it be only in opening out and repairing village roads, as proposed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in the 5th paragraph of his circular, No. 32 of the 27th September last.

No. 1202, dated Gya, the 20th October 1873.

From—A. V. Palmer, Esq., Collector of Gya,

To—The Commissioner of Patna.

As directed in your Circular No. 182R of 7th instant, I have the honor to submit the report called for.

2. Your circular under acknowledgment shows that your information as to the state of this portion of your division is correct, and that you have a full appreciation of the present condition and future prospects of the country.

3. The bhadoi crop has been throughout the district a poor one.

4. The excessive rains during the last week in July and first week in August flooded the country and destroyed the greater portion of this crop.

5. The absence of rain for upwards of a month, and of any considerable rain since the middle of August has, besides causing much destruction of the rice crop, prevented the land from acquiring sufficient moisture to enable the agriculturists to plough up, prepare, and sow their rubbee lands.

6. Many neglected to husband the water that they had in the beginning of August. Their apprehensions at that time were of excess of water, and they confidently expected from former experience a further supply, which they would husband for their rubbee crops.

7. The fact is that where water was husbanded, it has been and is being now expended to save the rice, and consequently there is little or no water stored to irrigate the rubbee, and not sufficient moisture to sow the winter crop.

8. A good fall of rain even now would be of incalculable benefit; but there is nothing at present to indicate forthcoming rain.

9. The prices-current have been closely scrutinized, and everything done that suggested itself to make these returns accurate indications of the transactions of the several marts.

10. Exportation has for some weeks past almost wholly ceased.

11. That portion of the district to the east of Jehanabad and west of the River Phalgoon, which is notorious for its abundant rice and rubbee crops, and which usually exports largely *viâ* Futwa, is reported to be importing grain.

12. From Nowadah, from which grain is usually exported to local marts, such as Behar and Gya, but very little is now offered for sale.

13. In Gya itself the cheapest rice is what is obtained from Patna.

14. Both in Gya and in Aurungabad the bunneahs have endeavoured to raise the prices beyond what they legitimately should have done.

15. This has been counteracted in Aurungabad by the sub-divisional officer, inducing the beparies to sell retail to purchasers, instead of wholesale to bunneahs, and in Gya by the bunneahs consenting to adopt suggestions made to them by me.

16. I am daily supplied with a list of all grain brought into the market, the rate at which it has been purchased by the bepari, and the rate at which he sells it to the bazar; and this enables me to suggest to the bunneahs equitable rates, allowing them a reasonable but not an inequitable profit; and these suggestions they have adopted.

17. As regards the stock in hand, I do not find that the bunneahs have any considerable stock.

18. The mohunth of Bodh Gya, and the zemindar of Huswa, Baboo Deendial Sing, are the only two zemindars who appear to have any considerable stock.

19. In addition to these, the zemindars marginally noted are reported to have some rice in store, but it is not easy to ascertain the exact quantity. The store cannot be very considerable,* as I am informed that what they have they are keeping, and not selling.

Baboo Tolsi Sing of Pandoe; Mohunt of Budowlee; Goorbux Lall of Durgapore; Jutteerdari Sing of Orphanpoor; Ramesher Pershad of Maksoodpore.

20. From enquiries I have made, I do not find that the zemindars have experienced much difficulty in collecting their rents. The Government revenue has been fairly paid.

21. The opium advances, which are very considerable in this district, doubtless account to some extent for the punctual payment of the kists at the present time.

22. I think that the prospects of the ryots may be fairly summed up in the following words.

That at present, though there is considerable tightness, there is no actual distress. That in the event of rain following within the next ten days matters will right themselves, but should rain not fall, there will not be above a four-anna crop of rice, and the rubbee crop will not even be sown.

23. As regards relief works, I have already considered them and have determined on works in each sub-division should they be necessary. These I will communicate in a separate letter.

24. I have written to Mr. Levinge to ascertain whether water could be let into the canal on this side of the Soane, and to enquire what amount of labor he would be able to employ on the several distributaries therefrom that have been determined on.

I should be glad if you would also address him, pointing out the great advantage it would be to the country bordering on the canal, if water could be supplied to the ryots there, and that it would do much to practically demonstrate the advantage to agriculturists of the canal and its distributaries.

I must apologise for the length to which I have allowed this report to go, but the importance of the matter, and my desire to lay before you the present condition of the district must be my excuse.

No. 1203, dated Gya, the 20th October 1873.

From—A. V. Palmer, Esq., Collector of Gya,

To—The Commissioner of Patna.

Referring to your Circular No. 182R. paragraph 2, of 7th instant, I have the honor to enumerate the relief works I would propose to undertake in the event of such works being unfortunately necessary.

2. In my letter No. 6, dated 14th July, 1872 (criminal side), I enumerated the two works marginally noted as suitable for relief operations.

Arwul to Jehanabad, Behta to Baroon.

3. Since then the first-named work has been undertaken by the District Road Fund, and is in course of construction.

4. I now propose certain other works, which I will proceed to detail. By determining on specific works in each sub-division, I shall be in a position to afford relief in that locality where the demand is greatest.

5. For the present I omit the sudder sub-division. I should be able to relieve distress there by employing labourers on district works.

Aurungabad Sub-Division.

Baroon and Behta	44 miles.
Ruffegunge to Myabigha	16 „
Daoodnaggur to Abra	14 „

The last two roads, or a portion of them, have been included in the District Committee's budget for the ensuing year.

Nowadah Sub-Division.

Behar and Rajowlee	20 miles.
* Nowadah to Warisallygunge	10 „
† Nowadah to Pakree Barawan	10 „

* This road has only been delayed in being undertaken in consequence of constant references to Government as to an imperial line of road from Nowadah to the rail. It was surveyed last year.

† A new police station will be erected this year at Pakree Barawan, and a road from the sub-divisional head-quarters is necessary.

JEHANABAD SUB-DIVISION.

Jehanabad to Hoolasgunge	14 miles.
Mukhdoompore to Khidarsaraie	8 „

The first road is urgently required to connect the outpost at Hoolasgunge with its station Jehanabad; at present for four months during the year it is almost inaccessible. It would also open out the country between Patna branch road and Phulgoo, which is usually very luxuriant in rubbee and rice productions.

The last-named road would run parallel with the first-named, and is in fact the renovating of an old road leading from the Barabar hills to P. B. R.

6. The cost of these works will be earth-work ordinarily, at Rs. 1-10 per 1,000 cubic feet.

No. 1180, dated Arrah, the 24th October 1873.

From—H. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., Collector of Shahabad,

To—The Commissioner of Patna.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in your Circular No. 182R, of the 7th instant.

2. Special information is sought for under the following heads:—

(*a*) Prices-current in the market.

(*b*) Exportation and importation of food-grains, and whether the stock of such in hand is large or otherwise.

(*c*) Whether zemindars are having much difficulty in collecting the present kist.

(*d*) What relief works may be necessary in case anything like serious distress arises.

(*e*) In Court of Wards' estates what necessity there is for temporary remissions to the ryots for relief works to be undertaken, and as to the expediency of importing grains at the cost of the estate.

3. I reply to these questions *seriatim*.

(1) *Prices-current.*—These are narrowly scrutinized by myself, and each sub-divisional officer has been directed to supervise carefully the returns submitted by him. Since the middle of this month I have ordered that these returns be sent in every week. The annexed tabular statement gives in contrast the prices ruling from September 1st to October 15th of the last and current years; and although these figures show unfavorably for the present year, still they are not high enough to cause any immediate anxiety; there should be nothing like distress—certainly not starvation—as long as the bazar rates for food-grains are not higher than at present.

4. (2) *Exportation and importation of food-grains, &c.*—This is a matter in which it is difficult to give anything like reliable figures, excepting in such places as the stations on the line of railway where a regular tally is kept. The Traffic Manager, East Indian Railway, has kindly promised to supply me with full information every fortnight under these heads.

A very considerable importation of food-grains (rice almost entirely) from Bengal has taken place since the 1st September: during the four weeks ending the 27th September it amounted to 36,600 maunds, viz.—

	Mds.
At Arrah	8,200
„ Behea...	6,100
„ Rugoonathpore	2,900
„ Doomraon	8,500
„ Buxar	10,900
Total ...	36,600

Since the beginning of this month there has been a very large increase in the amount imported; the return for the fortnight ending on the 11th October giving the foollwing figures:—

	Mds.
Arrah...	20,800
Behea	11,700
Rugoonathpore	5,900
Doomraon	15,000
Buxar	17,600
Total ...	71,000

Yesterday, from inquiries made between Buxar and Arrah, I learnt that the importation was considerably increasing day by day, so that for the fortnight ending on the 25th instant till larger figures may be expected.

The importations by river have not been and are not very large, but it is difficult to obtain from the grain-dealers anything like reliable figures in regard to their transactions. Any inquiries of this kind raise their suspicions at once, various surmises are made by them as to their ultimate object, and the information they supply in consequence is wilfully inaccurate. I am informed that during the past and present month at Sinha, Katubpore, Bahrera, Akowna, and Nowpore, 6,815 maunds of rice and 850 maunds of other grain have been imported; but I am inclined to think that a very much larger quantity has really come into the district, by river within this period. In regard to exportation, little or none is going on; by rail, a very small quantity of grain is being exported out of the district, and by river during the past month, I am told some 900 maunds of wheat, gram and peas have been sent downwards, and 2,500 maunds of similar grains upwards. It is a difficult matter to obtain anything like satisfactory information as to the amount of food-grains on stock. From all I can learn, the supply generally in the district is not small. The last year's winter rice crop was an average 12-anna crop, the rubbee a similar one, and a great part of the grain then produced in the district must still be in store after allowing for all ordinary exportations. The grain that is now being so largely imported from Bengal is not meant or required for present consumption; those who are importing it will undoubtedly hoard up a great part of it, and not bring it into the market until prices are at their highest.

3. No difficulty is being experienced in collecting the present kist. I have made inquiries on this point in many and different directions—from the Manager of the Maharajah of Doomraon's estates, whose collections are very large; from the Manager of Court of Wards; from zemindars whose property is situated in different parts of the district. The last kist was collected much as usual; it was, in fact, the first kist of the agricultural year, the September (Assin) or Towjee kist. The two next kists, January (Poos) and March (Cheyt-Bysack), will afford much better indications of the condition of the agricultural class; and if present appearances last, there is little doubt that difficulties will be experienced in collecting those kists.

4. In regard to what relief works may be necessary in case of anything like serious distress arising, I would beg to refer you to my No. 65, dated 30th January 1873, submitted by me as Chairman of the District Road Committee. In that letter I have, I think, fully set forth what works might be undertaken should anything like distress become general. I trust, however, the necessity for such extensive relief operations will not arise. I do not myself consider—and such, I think, is the general native opinion—that relief works are at present or are likely to be for some little time certainly necessary; and as the canal works afford employment for more labor, apparently, than the district can give, there is yet room for those who may be pressed, and have not yet done such labor. I would push on the canal works as rapidly as possible, and extend them as far as practicable. At present the eastern end of the district affords occupation to many. I would suggest operations being commenced as early as possible in regard to the Buxar and Chowsa branches. Further, I think the Irrigation Department might wisely import a quantity of rice at once and sell it at cost price to their employés; the sale and distribution of this might be arranged for without any extra establishment, and without putting a stop to the large importation of grain that is now being carried on by merchants. The effect of this would, I think, be to attract those who, although sufferers, are loath to come forward and labor, such as Brahmins, Rajpoots, Kaiths.

5. At present I do not think there is any necessity for temporary remissions to the ryots in any of the estates under the Court of Wards in the district.

According to ordinary custom, the rubbee crop should be sown by the end of Kartick, which this year will fall on the 4th of November; that is, supposing the soil contains sufficient moisture to allow of its being properly prepared and the sowings made; supposing rain does not fall by the 4th November to permit of the crop being sown, there is still hope until the 15th November, provided there is a sufficient intermediate rainfall. It will be time enough to consider *then* the question of remission of rent after carefully ascertaining what lands have yielded no rice, what remain fallow and unsown with rubbee.

In regard to relief works in Court of Wards' estates, I think steps should at once be taken to find out what number of wells should be sunk, village roads opened, and improved "aharas" or "kazanas" for water for irrigation purposes, repaired, or constructed, &c., &c. Such works will not only improve the value of each estate, but afford relief to the laboring and other distressed classes resident thereon.

In regard to the importation of grain to be sold at cost prices, I foresee difficulties in carrying out this scheme, in so far as the estates under the Court of Wards in this district are concerned, for in only some few do we manage the whole 16 annas. In estates with joint shareholders, many obstacles might and would arise, which I think would prevent the scheme being worked in anything like a satisfactory and effectual manner. If the co-partners did not agree to the proposal, the burden of the cost of importation, &c., would fall almost entirely on the share managed by the Court of Wards, and this would be an unfair distribution, for the other shareholders would enjoy equal benefits, without themselves incurring any expense.

4. That we are in a critical position, and that prospects are serious and call for careful watching, there can be little doubt. Last year's rice crop was not by any means a full one, nor indeed was the rubbee. The bhadoi (of this year) may on the whole be considered to have given a very inferior outturn; in many places none at all. This year's rice crop was sown very late, and is on the whole a failure, except on the lowlands where means have existed to keep it alive by irrigation, more especially in that part of the sub-division of Sasseram, which, as you know, has lately had and is still enjoying the benefit of the canal water. On this subject I annex copy of a report from Mr. Eyre. Nearly everywhere else the crop is either dead or dying, having already in many places been cut down for fodder. In my opinion, and from what I hear, no amount of rain or water could *now* save the dying crop.

In regard to the rubbee, owing to the excessive and continued drought, it has in very few places been sown at all, whereas in an ordinary and favorable year the best part of the lands which are set aside for this crop would have been already sown. If rain does not fall in sufficient quantity by the 15th of next month at latest, this crop will be a failure; for the extent of "silab" or "dearah" lands on the rivers Ganges and Soane, which have been sown down, and in which the rubbee is coming up and promises well, forms a very small proportion of the rubbee lands of the district. I am of opinion, then, that it will be on this crop that the question of serious distress will hinge. If it fails, we must be fully prepared in February, March, to meet such distress. The immediate tendency of the bad season will be to throw the cultivator much into debt to his landlord; the latter will store grain and not bring it into the market until it reaches its highest price; the cultivator cannot afford to do this, and must send his produce to sale; seed will be dear, and heavy interest taken on such loans; and stock is likely to suffer all over the district. The last dry season proved very injurious to it, and half-fed cattle had to be worked in the plough. There will be but little fodder again this cold weather, and loss of stock is sure to ensue. Serious distress seems from present prospects almost inevitable, but there is no fear of its commencing immediately.

The last famine in Behar began, I think, in February, March, when the great harvest of the season had failed *after* the minor dhan harvest. Prospects are gloomy as I have said, but there is no immediate anxiety, and a good rubbee harvest, if we get one, should tide us over a good part of the coming year.

	Wheat.		Barley.		Rice, best sort.		Rice, common.		Maize or Jowar.		Bajra.		Murwa.		Gram.	
	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.	Present return.	Corresponding period last year.
From 1st to 15th September.																
Arrah	14	16	22	27	14	12	14½	18	22	20	...	...	21	18	23	28
Buxar	14¾	14	20	22	10	10	17½	17½	...	...	15	16	...	...	21½	25
Bhubbooah	14½	16	...	...	11	13	15	18½	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	26
Sasseram	15	16½	18	26	12½	13	13	18	14½	...	...	...	19	...	17¾	23½
From 16th to 30th September.																
Arrah	13¾	17	21½	28	13¾	12	15½	18	22	20½	...	...	28	18	22½	27
Buxar	14½	14	20	22	10	10	17½	17½	24	30	17	15	...	...	20	25
Bhubbooah	14	16	16	18	11	13	13	18½	...	...	...	...	24	30	17	26
Sasseram	14	16½	15½	26	11	13	12	18	15	...	...	...	20	...	19	23½
Mohaneeah...	13	15	...	...	11	13	13	18	...	...	...	...	30	25	16	26
From 1st to 15th October.																
Arrah	13	15	19	25	13¾	15	14½	19	19	25	...	...	...	...	18½	26
Sasseram	13½	16	15½	24	10½	12½	11½	17	15½	...	...	...	17	...	16	23½
Buxar	13	14	17	22	9½	10	16	17½	19	26	16	18	...	...	18	24
Bhubbooah	12½	16	14½	20	10½	12	12½	20	16	24	...	...	16	26	13	22
Jehanabad	13	16	...	20	11	13	13½	18	12	...	...	...	...	...	14½	22
Mohaneeah	12	15	16	25	10	13	12	15	...	...	...	...	...	..	14½	24
Durgowtee	12½	15	...	...	11	14	14	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chynepore	10½	15	...	...	10½	15	12	20	...	.	...	...	...	...	16	22

H. W. Alexander,
Collector.

Shahabad Collectorate:
The 24th October 1873.

No. 200, dated Camp Dhoropore, the 15th October 1873.

From—J. E. A Eyre, Esq., Deputy Collector, Sasseram,

To—The Collector of Shahabad.

I have had the honor to submit demi-officially an account of the measures pursued by me in assisting the Irrigation Department to supply water for the rice crops contiguous to the canal; I now beg to forward an official narrative of my proceedings.

2. Upon the morning of the 2nd October I left Dehree for Murunpore on the canal (main western) and near the Kas river. I took with me one inspector of police, one head constable, six constables, and five native clerks of my establishment. The canal intersects the Kas river west of Murunpore. There are two bunds across the canal which form the Kas syphon basin. Another bund east of these diverts the canal water into a cutting round the syphon basin which falls into the Kas, thus.* A drain had already been cut at A, and a low fall of water had been already falling through for three days. Bund No. 1 was cut on the 2nd by Mr. Levinge's orders, and the water sent by the diversion into the Kas, and thence into the canal; the water in the eastern portion being 7 feet higher than in the western and 3 feet lower than the Soane level. In the afternoon I went over the villages of Muhwarry, Bishoonpoora, Boodhooa, Majean, and Lillary. The Kas up to a dam constructed at Muhwarry was full, and the dhan lands on each side were well flooded. The people were irrigating the higher lands with basket buckets. On the other side of the dam the river was almost dry. I had the dam cut at the corner and let the water down. At Boodhooa I found another dam. This I left, and did not cut until the intermediate space had been filled. I then passed the water on. Thence, on the 4th, I sent at the same time instructions to the contiguous villages to deepen their water channels as the water was passed on. Upon the 3rd October I was engaged in supplying labor to the overseers in charge of the canal and the Seeanwank distributary. Two hundred and ninety-six coolies were handed over to these subordinates, and the bazars for feeding the laborers established at Murunpore and Bainsahee, at the head of the distributary, and at Seeanwank, its termination. Upon the 4th October I visited the outlet at Bainsahee, two miles west of Murunpore, and went thence along the Seeanwank distributary as far as Majean. The proprietors of Lillary consented to cut at their own expense a minor channel, which will supply the lands of both Indrahee and Lillary. Returning by Boodhooa, the dam there was cut and the water passed on. The dhan lands of Boodhooa and part of Majean had been well flooded. On the 5th October I accompanied Mr. Levinge and Mr. Hope, the Executive Engineer, to Bidadih, the extreme end of the main watern canal as hitherto excavated. The outlets were mostly to the north at Bainsahee, Kudwa, Rukusseea, Agraind; on the Arrah road, Bhugwanpore, Buradih, Lodhee, and Belthooa. The water was flowing freely through, and all the dhan land and a portion of the land ploughed for rubbee had been flooded. Each village is naturally anxious to retain the water as much as possible, and for as long a time as possible within its own limits. Several disputes arising from the desire of monopoly were decided, and dams obstructing the flow cut. As it was my intention to proceed down the channel of the Kas river, and there personally superintend the matter, I addressed Mr. Charles, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, requesting him to see that, after each village had been amply supplied, and all practicable reservoirs filled, the water was passed on to the best antiguous village. I arranged also that there should be some record of the area of land irrigated. To this end I called all village putwarees to assist in making rough measurements of the lands so supplied, and I portioned out among four of the mohurirs accompanying me the lands lying between the Kas and the Grand Trunk Road, each to supervise the measurements made in the area apportioned to him.

3. On the 6th October I broke up my camp at Murunpore, and sent it into Seeanwank on the Kas. I found that Bishunpore to the east, Muhwarry to the west, Boodhooa to the west, and Majean to the east, had all been well irrigated, and a watercourse to the east of the river in Majean had been filled. Also the lands east of Etwanputtee, the lands north and west of Chaup, the watercourse of Bhoo, and the low dhan of Isra had been irrigated. I had the previous day ordered the dams at Bhundhpa and Bugha-koh to be cut. This had been already done when I arrived at Bhundhpa at 10 A.M. As, however, there was a fine sketch of 200 acres of dhan in want of water, I closed up both drains, and instructed the zemindars to set their people to work to lift the water, and deepen and widen the watercourses. They were told that the water would be thus retained for eighteen hours At Saura I found another dam, which was strengthened, and in the meantime, the channels running east to Chit, Bisaon, and west to Soowra, Koosdhur and Bishunpoor were ordered to be deepened. At Kupassera

there was a strong dam, whence that village and Kurrumkeelah are supplied. The water had reached this dam, the Kas being dry further north. From Chaup and Bhoo to Kupasseea and Kurrumkeelah is one long sketch of dhan. At Bhundhpa, Jadooah, Baghakah, Saura, and Chit Bason, more water was required, and as the dhan at Bhundhpa, Bhaghakah, and Saura, were fixed for eighteen hours, these higher lands, partly by flooding and partly by labor, could all be fully irrigated. The water had come down the previous day, the 5th, in the evening. Thus up to date the water filled in the Kas had supplied the following villages:—

Bishoonpoora.	Isra.
Mahwarry.	Maderpore.
Boodhwa.	Bhandhpa.
Itwanputtee.	Juddooah.
Chaup.	Bhaghakah.
Bhoo.	Chit Bason.
Soara.	Kousdhar.
Kupusseea.	Bishunpore.

Kurremkeelah, eight miles along its course, and the gross area of which is 6,695 acres. From Haboobpore up to Seeanwank there is but little dhan land, and the Kas runs along a shallow broad basin which widens at Seeanwank into the dimensions of a lake. I found a small dam at Rajpore, in which old rain water was still standing and being utilised. There was another small dam at Misrowleea, and at Seeanwank, at the egress of the Kas from the lake, a thick, strong, and high dam. I interfered with none of these on the 6th. On the 7th I returned early at Bhundhpa (my camp still standing at Seeanwank), and finding the dhan lands well supplied with water, and the reservoirs filled, I cut the dam there and at Baghakah. The rush of water deepened a previous breach (of the night before) at the west end of the Saura dam, and burst the dam at Kossdhar. The great sheet of dhan on both sides is well flooded. At 5 P.M. the water rose at the Rajpore dam, and it was then cut, the Misrowleea dam having been previously cut away altogether. It was useless retaining either of these dams. The land on each side was a high, sandy moor, containing no cultivation of any kind, and the dams had been put up in the expectation of the water flooding over each ridge. The principal dhan lands of Seeanwank lie to its east on the slopes towards the Kas. At the western end of the enormous dam across the Kas, a channel carries off the water in that direction. This was deepened under my orders, and a narrow deep cut made across the dam at its western end to carry the flow along the slope parallel to the Kas. After consideration I decided that as the Seeanwank distributary would more effectively irrigate this land, the dam should be cut next morning, on the 8th, and that for the present the water which would run into the channel and through the cut during the night, and until the water fell, must suffice. Accordingly, on the morning of the 8th, the dam was cut in these places, and the water let down the Kas bed. In the afternoon I moved my camp on to Bikramgunge, myself following the course of the Kas. The water had reached the villages Chyta, Chyta Baharee, Chyta Inglis, Burgaon, and Basadpore, and was filling in at the dam at Bainsagar. I had in the morning ordered this dam to be cut. It had been already done, and the flow northwards had commenced. At Ithurrea there was a high dam. The people of the contiguous villages had been previously warned, and had assembled here. After learning their requirements and visiting the channels mentioned by them, I dammed up again the water at Bainsagar. A channel above this dam was thus utilised and water carried to Bainsagar, Baharee, Sujowlee, Keshodehree, Konee, Kaithee, and Sonee. This dam remained by my orders until the morning of the 11th, Saturday. As regards the Ithurrea dam, I found two canals above it, and running each east and west at right angles to Kas. By these the irrigation of Ithurrea, Manee, Pasiadih, Neegah, Kanaria, Mutuadih to the west, and Koolhareeah, Chownree, and Chowgurry to the east, was practicable. The dam at Ithurrea was therefore allowed to stand intact until the morning of Monday, the 13th, when it was cut, and the water passed on to the great lake Ghooseea.

4. On the 9th October I left Bickramgunge for Sasseram to open the treasury and give out money. On the 10th I sat with the Magistrate's bench at Dehree. On the 11th I left Dehree for Nasrigunge, to sit there with the bench of Magistrates; on my way I visited the villages watered from the cutting at Kudraon on the Arrah branch canal. The villages of Kudraon, Ahiraon, Tendooa, Tewarrideeb, had been already irrigated. The usual disputes arose here, and the common desire to let the water flow on until it flooded the highlands and all the rubbee ploughed lands. I had the channels deepened, carrying the water through the waste lands of Talookpore to Salookpore khas, and Mondear to the west. The village of Ahiraon was overflooded, and the water being drained into the villages, ponds, and wasted. The useless outlets were dammed up, and an outlet to the east leading to Shahpore opened. The dhan lands north of Ahiraon were flooded, and between these and the dhan lands of Buraon a long sketch of bare land extended, the dhan of Buraon being on its northern side. It was argued before that the zemindar of Ahiraon should cut a channel through his land to the boundary between the two villages, and that

the zemindar of Buraon should continue it in his property to the dhan lands of his village. A requisition for more labor was received to-day, and that matter was also argued for. Three hundred and odd coolies have since been supplied.

5. Thus in twelve days six hundred laborers have been supplied in aid of this beneficial undertaking and their feeding provided for. The water has been passed down the Kas river, distance of eighteen miles, the dhan land of thirty-eight villages contiguous to, and situate in its valley, fully irrigated. The statistics of irrigated area are being roughly computed. Four villages, supplied from the Kudraon outlet, have been visited, and the water passed on to four contiguous villages. From my proceedings at this place, Dharapore (near Ghooseea), into whose lake the Kas water is now running, a fresh report will date. It is my intention, after the question of passing on the water has been settled, to move slowly along westwards by the villages now receiving water.

6. In conclusion I beg to submit a copy of Mr. Charles's first report of his proceedings in the tract assigned to him; it is very satisfactory. As regards help, I do not see how it can be afforded in such a matter. It would lead to grave abuse were any but superior officials entrusted with the passing on of the water. The people are prepared to bribe to any amount for permission to retain the water or to cut the dams and conduct it on, as the case may suit them. To none therefore but the European officials of the district can the duty be entrusted. The police force moving with me is for the purpose of keeping the peace, preventing interference with the large dams in the Kas, and assisting in procuring supplies for the laborers. I have already reduced a portion of the force. Mr. Charles is supervising matters in the tract lying between the Buxar road and the Grand Trunk Road north of the Main Western Canal.

Since the 5th instant I have been busy in this work. I believe you have the inspector and a head constable with you, as I have no one to help me. I cannot undertake such a large tract of irrigation as you can. Hitherto I have had to do with the flow from five cuttings, viz. at Buradih bridge, Chittowli, Buraon, third syphon, and at the canal's junction with the Grand Trunk Road (Bithooa). From Buradih cutting Sumerdeeha and Konar have been watered. At Konar there is a large bund, from the north corner of which for two days the water has been running into Mahallee and Doomra; from the south corner the water since yesterday has been running into Kythee and Gurroora (Gudoura); so there are four separate streams branching from Konar,—the Chittowli cutting in on highland with a very small flow of water. Chittowli itself is being watered, but there is no hope of carrying this line to any other villages.

The Buraon cutting has irrigated Buraon Lodi, Dooreeoon, and Sydabad, and the water is now running into Rampore Joee; it will then flow on to Puteree. The third syphon is a very important cutting. Koomhee, Anuntpore, Bhurwa, Badurmulk, and north of the Grand Trunk Road, have been watered; and Kiriree (Kurhunda) is being watered, from which village it will run on through Sumonthe Leosagur, and other villages towards Koormabad, south of the Grand Trunk Road. Anoowan and Ghutkan have been watered. I am uncertain whether Ghutkan has passed the water on or not. Rohee and Ramnooa will be watered by this route.

From the Billthooa cutting, Billthooa, Fatteh Sarai, Moree Sarai (partly), Kurungee (partly), Purusseea (partly), have been watered. There is so much high land in the two last-named places that I intend to pass the water on to-night. Beladhee will be partly watered, then Kuroop, Mulwar, Murchwan, and Syudwar. In the latter four villages there is much dhan. I will try to irrigate the remainder of Mor Sarai and Goorwar, but the Mor Sarai putteedars (there are ten) quarrel so over the water that, when I first gave them water, I had to turn it off to another village. I hear that you have men going about measuring the irrigated lands, so you will know how much dhan and rubbee land has had water.

No. 960, dated Tirhoot, the 8th October 1873.

Memo. by—C. F. Worsley, Esq., Offg. Collector of Tirhoot.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna for his information. The undersigned is of opinion that the measures being taken by the Assistant Manager are very proper.

No. 1490, dated Durbungah, the 25th September 1873.

From—G. W. Llewhellin, Esq., Assistant Manager, Raj Durbungah,

To—The Collector of Tirhoot.

In continuation of my letter No. 103 of 20th ultimo, to the address of the manager, and which was forwarded to you with his memorandum No. 1123 of 23rd idem, I am sorry to again have to state that the prospect of the rice crop is very bad. Since my last report we have had almost no rain, and the little there has been, fell in small quantities, and with the hot sun dried up almost as it fell. It was reported to the Commissioner that there had been a good fall of rain to the north-east of this district, but the same was not general, and was nearly confined to Mudhoobunee, where there was 4 inches. On hearing of this I sent off men expressly to find out the fall in pergunnah Allahpore and elsewhere, and I find that even at a short distance both east and west of Mudhoobunee the rain on that date was very little, only a few tenths. Mr. Bedford says the same, that the fall was nearly confined to Mudhoobunee itself. I have been doing my utmost to assist the ryots in making bunds and pynes by paying them out money to do so, and I am constantly charging the tehsildars to do all in their power to assist in every way. Where there is water to enable them to irrigate they have been working hard, and no doubt they will secure a good deal of rice, but the difficulty is that most of the small rivers and low places from which they used to get water for irrigation are dry or nearly so.

2. The above state of things exists nearly over the whole estate except to the south, where there is more mokai grown, of which there is a fair crop, but the dhan there is bad. Nearly all the rice land has been planted, but it is chiefly in a yellow dried-up state, and should we now get any amount of rain, little can be expected from it; a good rain would of course secure that portion which has had sufficient rain to keep it growing or got irrigated; besides this it would give moisture for the rubbee crop which is in great danger.

3. I have in the usual way called upon ryots for the first four-anna kist of 1281, but they are complaining, and say that owing to the dhan crop being so bad their mahajuns won't make advance. I have instructed the tehsildars not to p those too hard who are unable to pay, but to collect from the ryots well-to-do and who have a bhuddoi crop. Mr. Duff's report from Marridigger is somewhat more cheering, still far from good.

4. In the Panchmuhulla, about twenty days ago, we got a fair fall of rain which brightened things considerably, but again since that there has been no rain at all scarcely. The tehsildar in this portion is exerting himself in every way to bund the small rivers and flow water through the different pynes for that purpose, and I have sent him funds to carry out the work.

5. I hope in my next report to be able to show a better state of things, and I shall then be more able to judge what the crop will be like.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I hear that one inch and two tenths of rain fell in the Panchmuhulla direction.

No. 219, dated Mudhoobunee, the 18th October 1873.

From—A. Cochrane, Esq., Sub-Divisional Officer, Mudhoobunee,

To—The Collector of Tirhoot.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Circular letter No. 538, dated 11th instant, covering copy of Commissioner's Circular letter No. 182, dated 7th idem, and to report.

2. The prices-current for some time past, I am inclined to believe, have not been very accurate, the cause being that the bunneahs gave deliberately, I believe, incorrect and misleading information. The last price-current I saw so much reason to doubt, that I returned it for correction to Mudhoobunee from Durbhunga, where I was at the time; the one I am now forwarding I think is tolerably correct. In future I shall take care that they are as correct as can be. I have deputed the canoongo to make them up in person. As to the prices in the mofussil, I find that no purwannahs have been sent. I am strictly enjoining the officers in charge of thannahs and outposts that weekly returns must be sent in prepared by the officer in charge himself, and that I shall hold them strictly responsible for any incorrectness in the returns.

3. It has been reported to me that transport on rather a large scale has been going on towards the west. Whether the grain leaves the district I cannot say; I am told that much of it goes to Sarun.

4. Stocks of food-grains, I am told, are considerable. I have an estimate now before me of the amount in the hands of holders which shows some five lakhs of maunds, of grain but I have very little confidence in its accuracy. I am moreover disposed to think, from the transport of grain going on, that there is a good deal in stock.

5. As to the difficulty zemindars have in collecting their rents, I cannot be positive. I should think it is not unlikely that they have difficulty, as the people expect hard times, and would be likely to keep as much money and grain by them as they could. I have heard of much difficulty experienced in collection, but I cannot at present be certain of the truth of my informants' statements.

6. Relief works will, I think, be necessary; roads, tanks, and works of such nature should be first undertaken.

7. In the report I have already had the honor to send in from Durbhunga about that sub-division, I have offered some suggestions. I would urge them here again, and with earnestness. I think it is probable things will be worse here than in Durbhunga, where things will be quite bad enough.

8. Any inaccuracies in this report will, I hope, be excused by the consideration that I have been in charge here only a very few days, and can give but little of my time to the sub-division. I am doing my best, but I *cannot* carry on the work of both sub-divisions at once, they being the sub-divisions in Tirhoot where there is most work. I must urge strongly the necessity of sending a man *at once* to take charge. It is a great hardship on me, and not at all to the interests of the public. Very little time, too, has been allowed me to compile and send in the report. Still I think my sketch of the state of affairs is tolerably faithful.

No. 232, dated Tirhoot, the 22nd October 1873.

Memo. by—C. F. Worsley, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tirhoot.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna, in continuation of this office letter No. 231, dated 20th instant.

The rise shewn in the prices of rice and Indian-corn (from 24 seers to 14, and from 32 to 28 respectively) since the submission of the last preceding return is enormous, if past statements were at all correct. The price of rice now given tallies more nearly with that prevailing at Durbhungah, and is probably correct. Until officers begin to move freely about their sub-divisions and make personal inquiries, little dependence can be placed on the estimates of stocks which they submit.

The early appointment of a separate officer to Mudhoobunee is urgently required.

No. 231, dated Mozufferpore, the 20th October 1873.

From—C. F. Worsley, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tirhoot,

To—The Commissioner of the Patna Division.

With reference to your Circular No. 182R, dated 7th instant, I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. The subject of your letter may be conveniently considered under six separate heads:—

(1) Prices-current.
(2) Exportation of food-grains.
(3) Stores of food-grains.
(4) Collection of rents.
(5) Relief works.
(6) Special measures on behalf of Court of Wards' estates.

3. (1)—*Prices-currents*—Careful inquiries have been made by the sub-divisional officers and myself, and I feel satisfied that the weekly returns are mainly correct. An exception as regards the past may perhaps be admitted in the case of Durbhunga, of which Mr. Cochrane writes: "The prices-current have been compiled from the statements of the bunneahs in the town, and I think that they have been endeavouring to mislead and to make out prices lower than they really are. I had the return sent in on the 12th, carefully tested, and I think it is correct." I have invariably found that the prices mentioned by all whom I have questioned, whether planters or natives, tally with the figures officially reported.

4. (2) *Exportation of food-grains.*—There is no reason to believe that exportations have been exceptionally large, though owing to the bad prospects before them the people are much alarmed at the continual demands from outside, and have in some instances asked sub-divisional officers to prohibit further exportation.

The Deputy Collector of Seetamarhee states that he has been "asked by several parties to get permission to issue order to stop further exportation" from that sub-division, and encloses a letter from Mr. Tripe, the manager of Dinechupra Factory, an extract from which I may here insert for your information: "Hundreds of carts, pack-bullocks, ponies, and asses, are continually arriving and taking away the small store of grain the present harvest has produced. The improvident native only sees present profit, and does not and will not understand that he is cutting his own throat and clearing the way for the skéleton famine to step in.

"To the south and east the country is much intersected by navigable rivers and streams, add to which the railway is much more accessible than here. Should the grain now being drained from this portion of the district be again required, the only means of transport at command would be the primitive cart, &c., of the period, which would never be able to supply a large demand. My experience of 1866 leads me to argue in this way. There was thus money in the country, but what was the utility of it when there was *no grain* to be purchased, and so the people either emigrated or starved.

"The exportation of grain from Nepaul has been stopped by orders of Sir Jung Bahadoor, and I understand a portion of the rents of the tenantry has been respited, and in fact every precaution is being taken to guard against a certain scarcity and possible famine. I therefore, in the interests and welfare of the people, beg you will take such steps actively as will lead to the stoppage of the wild exportation of grain which is now going on, and save the population from such disasters as I fear to contemplate."

5. A few days ago I received a report from the Mudheypore thannah in the Mudhoobunee sub-division, stating that the bunneahs had closed their shops, and were refusing to sell at all in consequence of an order passed by the late Deputy Collector prohibiting exportation. Whether or not such order was passed, I have not yet learnt for certain; but I lost no time in writing to Mr. Cochrane for its immediate repeal, assuming that the police had reported truly. This circumstance illustrates the difficulty of forcibly interfering with the grain dealers, and shows that if we once take up such a line of policy, we must be prepared to adopt one illegal measure after another, or we shall be checkmated by the simple device of closing shops. People point to Sir Jung Bahadoor's successful action in this matter, but they forget that it is just because he can and will enforce his orders by all means, legal or illegal, that he is able to attain his ends. Thus it is correctly reported (and whether the fact is strictly true or not is immaterial so long as it is generally believed by the people) that the first two or three batches of carts that entered Nepaul for grain, after the publication of the recent orders, were warned off, and that the next batch of carts were burnt, and the owners expelled with their bullocks. Were a bunneah in Nepaul to close his shop to-day from resentment to an order passed by the Maharajah, he might probably lose his head to-morrow; but the bunneahs in British territory know that our Government is accustomed to act with the most scrupulous legality, and make their calculations accordingly. There is also a vast difference between stopping exportation of grain to a foreign country, and prohibiting internal movements of grain in our own districts.

6. (3) *Stores of grain.*—The general opinion of the sub-divisional officers is that the stocks of food-grains are small. The Assistant Magistrate of Hajeepore remarks: "The stock of food-grain in hand is decidedly small compared with other years. This stock is further rendered of less value owing to the fact that the zemindars, who have hitherto been in the habit of lending grains to the ryots on the prospect of a good cold-weather crop, are holding back on account of bad prospects, and prefer to export their grain to ready-money purchasers for other markets."

7. The following extract from Mr. Wace's letter shows the state of stocks in the Tajpore sub-division: "The people of the sub-division ordinarily import for their own consumption large quantities of rice from Tirhoot. This comes in in two ways—by river in the months of July to October, and by road a little all through the year, but especially in the cold weather, when long lines of carts may be seen coming from that direction laden with rice.

"Surmustipore is the great rice-importing market of the sub-division, and I believe from what I heard when there that hardly a tenth part of what is usually brought there has come to hand this year. The state of the rivers is said to be partly accountable for this; several boats destined for these parts being said to be detained by some embankments at Muhtal on the Dimra river or some such place, but of course the chief cause is the unwillingness of the Tirhoot people to let go last year's balance of grain in view of this year's drought. This stoppage is so far a satisfactory sign for Tirhoot proper that it seems to indicate that the grain is rather in the hands of cultivators than in that of the traders, but it is an extremely serious matter for this sub-division and the country west of it. I may add that bullocks and carts may have been seen for some time coming back empty from the Tirhoot direction.

"The Surmustipore traders told me that the importations of wheat and barley, which are usually made in Bysakh, Jyeth, and Assarh, were this year rather smaller than usual; while as a set-off a far larger quantity of kulai came in by river from the east and was sent off westward. In good years there is said to be a little importation of murwa from the Tirhoot direction and makai from Chumparun, but there has been none this year yet. Over the rest of the sub-division the movement of food-grains recently have been unimportant. The stock of rice that came in from Tirhoot last cold weather was only calculated to last till the next drain could be made on that part of the country.

"As to the present stock of food-grain in the sub-division, my information at present is necessarily somewhat defective. I may, however, state that I do not consider that even should the rice crop turn out a total failure, the cultivating classes will be short of grains for the next two or three months. The bhadoi crops, inferior as they were, will carry the people on so far at least. If by that time a little rice is coming in, the evil day may be staved off a month or two, but I do not see what is to prevent a famine between February and June next year. Indian seasons are wonderfully changeable, and it is possible that a heavy rain before the end of Kartic, and favorable weather subsequently, may yet cause a good rubbee crop, but it would be well to prepare for the worst."

This dependence of Tajpore on the east of the district in some measure explains why the sub-division suffered most severely in 1869.

8. The Deputy Collector of Seetamarhee states that "the stock of grain is sufficient to meet the demand of the people if exportation is stopped;" that he has himself seen "hundreds of carts from Lallgunge, Chupra, and Durbhunga on the way here for grain," and that "the food-grains in store are reported to be very small." Mr. Cochrane, who is at present in charge of both Durbhunga and Mudhoobunee sub-divisions, after stating the difficulties in the way of coming to any satisfactory opinion owing to the interested and contradictory statements of buyers and sellers, thus concludes: "I am of opinion, after considering the allegations of both sets of persons—persons desirous of buying and persons in possession of rice—that there is a good deal of food-grains forthcoming, and this opinion is shared by intelligent Europeans who have seen the famine of 1866."

I am myself disposed to accept this conclusion, not only in regard to the eastern sub-divisions, but with reference to the district generally; and I am satisfied that although exportation is going on more freely than is desirable, its extent seems larger than it really is by reason of the fear of people.

9. (4) *Collection of rents.*—In the Setamarhee and Durbhungah sub-divisions rents are being collected with difficulty. Elsewhere the present kist is being realized with fair success. It is the coming kists which the people will be unable to discharge.

10. (5) *Relief works.*—It is the unanimous opinion of the sub-divisional officers that relief works must be undertaken, but, with the exception of Mr. Cochrane, there is no one who suggests immediate measures in this direction. Mr. Cochrane observes: "What measures the Government elect to take should be taken at once. There is certain to be very great scarcity and dearth next year, and there is much chance of famine; the sooner the situation is faced the better." I do not recommend any hasty action in regard to the opening of relief works. The ordinary road repairs of the district, and the few special works estimated at Rs. 20,000, provisionally sanctioned by the district road committee, will, I believe, give ample employment in the first instance, and will serve to guage the wants of the people. In all probability relief works will not be required before the beginning of the year. I have not yet received any suggestions from any sub-divisional officers for particular works, but I have discussed the subject with the Executive Engineer, who is considering certain projects; and as Mr. Halliday will resume charge of the district on the morning of the 23rd instant, and will be charged with the carrying out of any scheme that may be approved, it seems right that propositions should emanate from him or at least have his approval. I therefore do not regret my inability to furnish you with a list and cost of relief works to be undertaken as a first instalment, and I feel assured that under the circumstances, and in consideration of the short notice I have received, and of my brief tenure of office, you will acquit me of want of interest in the matter.

11. (6) *Special measures in Wards' Estates.*—I beg to forward copies of letters Nos. 1544 and 123, dated 14th instant, from the Manager and Assistant Manager of the Durbhunga estates, and to add that I concur generally in Colonel Burn's proposal. In a demi-official letter which I have just received you have recorded your sanction to the importation of grains, and the opening of relief works to such extent as the manager may deem necessary. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the manager without delay. I would recommend that the proposal regarding the remission of rents be sanctioned.

12. With regard to the Kunowli estate, I agree with the Manager, Mr. Stewart (copy of whose letter I enclose) that it is too poor to import grain or undertake relief works at its own cost, and I am of opinion, therefore, that the people on the estate must depend on the district relief works for assistance.

13. I shall be glad to see the tuccavee system expanded at this time, and money freely lent by Government to respectable zemindars, planters, and others, for importation of grain and sale of the same at cost price. I cannot but think that many persons would gladly avail themselves of such aid, and would faithfully discharge the trust. Planters would be especially useful in storing and distributing grain. They are scattered all over the district, they have ample room for storing grain, and they would scrupulously and efficiently secure its distribution. The Kunowli manager, too, might be supplied with funds by Government for such a purpose. Though political economists may be as strongly opposed to Government's directly importing and dealing in grain-food, as they are averse to orders forbidding exportation or fixing prices, I am convinced that their objections do not apply in this country with equal force in each case. The effect of the latter kind of action may be to close shops, but it is a peculiarity of

the people of India to bear much, and to accommodate themselves to circumstances so long as they are not *directly* interfered with, and unpleasant changes are not obtruded on their notice in an objectionable way. I cannot myself believe that a mere temporary competition of Government with grain-dealers would induce the latter either to abandon the business to which they are born and bred, or to dispose of their stocks recklessly or extravagantly.

14. I am now directing the sub-divisional officers to take the earliest opportunities of commencing their cold-weather tours, to observe very carefully the state and feelings of the people, and to collect themselves, and employ their executive establishments in collecting, as full information as possible, regarding the stock of grain and the parts of their sub-divisions most likely to be severely pressed.

No. 1544, dated Durbhanga, the 14th October 1870.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL J. BURN, Manager, Raj Durbhanga,

To—The Collector of Tirhoot.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 539 of the 11th instant, forwarding copy of the Commissioner's Circular No. 182R.

2. I had the advantage of discussing the serious subject of contemplated distress in this district with you personally on the 11th instant, and you will fin by the enclosed letter from Mr. Llewhellin of this date, that he holds much the same views on the important question of relief that I expressed to you, and which you were pleased generally to approve of.

3. I regret that I am not in a position to answer with any degree of certainty the three queries put in the 1st paragraph of your letter under acknowledgment. With regard to your first question, I believe exportation of grain this year has been as extensive as it annually is from this large rice-exporting part of the district. Inquiries lead me to believe that there is a very large supply of grain held in reserve by *mahajuns* sufficient to supply the demand, but at a cost nearly equal to famine price. I further believe, judging from our experience, that zemindars must have very great difficulty in collecting their present *kist*. I have to-day been assured that two zemindars have just issued orders not to demand any rents from their ryots for the present.

4. You further request me to report specially and fully on each point mooted in the concluding paragraph of the Commissioner's letter.

(1.) As to remissions to ryots.

I would strongly recommend that the assistant manager be authorized to grant remissions at once wherever, from his *own strict personal* inquiries, he finds such to be really necessary either in seer or thicca mehals, the degree of such remissions to be left to his discretion. You may rest assured I would not propose so great an exercise of authority were I not convinced that Mr. Llewhellin, from his great knowledge of the estate, and his thorough zeal and interest in his work, is really competent to be entrusted, and the time is of essential value, as unless this immediate permission to act promptly is granted, we must, pending final sanction to any proposals of remission submitted, go on enforcing or rather trying to enforce collections of rent. Of course reports of all such remissions will be submitted for final sanction. If we get heavy rain within the next three weeks, we may still look for good rubbee crops, but unfortunately the great part of the lands on this portion of the raj property are only adapted for *dhan* land, and rain for them can now be of little or no use.

(2.) I think that to be really beneficial, relief works should be undertaken at once, while the labouring classes are still strong and able to work.

I suggest that I be vested with authority to start such works to the extent of one lakh of rupees in anticipation of approval of detailed estimates to be submitted as soon as practicable. For relief in the neighbourhood of Durbhanga, I would suggest the deepening of the large lake behind the houses of the Assistant Manager and Executive Engineer. This will be a great sanitary improvement, and, from its vicinity to these houses and to the palace, very advisable. The earth excavated might, as suggested to me by Mr. Stevens, be thrown up on the sides of the lake, and be made into a carriage drive round it. For relief in the interior I would propose that say twenty of the large tanks scattered over our property, originally excavated at the expense of the minor's ancestors, but now more or less filled up, be re-excavated. Each tank to be so cleaned out to be at least six miles apart, so as to distribute the labor widely, and make all accessible to those able and willing to work. Such tanks to be then reserved for drinking water. The Durbhanga work may be roughly estimated to cost Rs. 20,000, and the twenty tanks in the mofussil from Rs. 1,000 to 3,000 each, making a total of say Rs. 60,000. The remaining Rs. 4,000 I would propose to spend in bunds and feeder roads to our main roads.

(3.) I now come to the most difficult question of all, that of importing grain on the part of the estate.

I fear it will be necessary, at any rate, that we should try to commence doing so, as otherwise I see little hope of bringing down the price of the grain stored by local mahajuns who kept it with the object of selling at the last extremity at exorbitant rates to the ryots of villages in which they have personal interest. If we do so import grain or succeed in buying up the mahajuns' grain, I would insure its expenditure in due time by paying for our

relief works one-half in rice and the other in pice. Our small rivers are, I fear, too low now to hope to be able to get any grain purchased beyond the banks of the Ganges or possibly up to Rosserah, but the procuring of carts will not be difficult this year, but merely a question of expense. I should think we might commence by purchasing 30,000 maunds, it being left to my discretion where and how to effect the purchase, the cost of which I cannot even venture to estimate. It is a matter in which I can claim no experience, and regarding which I will be grateful for detailed instructions or advice, though I need scarcely add I am anxious to make the best and economical arrangements.

(3½.) We have no money in hand, and can expect to receive little. Mr. Stevens' ordinary demands are heavy, and I have soon to pay Rs. 75,000 for the Maharajah's marriage expenses; hence I request you will without delay request the Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Bengal, to realize three lakhs of rupees by sale of some of our 5½ securities, sending you two lakhs of the amount in small currency notes and retaining one lakh to my credit in Calcutta in floating deposit.

(4.) I am averse to distributing grain free of cost to any but to the sick and feeble, but would allow our tehsildars or others in charge of our grain stores to sell the rice at cost price to high-caste men who are really from habitual caste prejudices unable or unfit to labour. On this point I respectfully solicit detailed instructions.

(5.) I do not believe real distress will arise for some months yet, but to be well prepared to meet it, is to avert half of it.

(6.) I will submit a copy of the detailed report promised by Mr. Llewhellin as soon as he returns from his tour; meanwhile I venture to solicit early orders.

No. 128, dated Durbhunga, the 14th October 1873.

From—G. W. Llewhellin, Esq., Assistant Manager of Raj Durbhanga,

To—Lieut.-Col. J. Burn, Manager, Raj Durbhanga.

With reference to your memorandum No. 1501, dated 13th instant, and correspondence as per margin, I have the honor to state as follows.

Collector of Tirhoot's No 530, dated 11th ultimo, and Commissioner's Circular No. 182R, dated 7th idem.

2. In my report No. 1490 to Collector of Tirhoot in your absence, dated 25th ultimo, and previous report to you, I stated all I could at that time on the subject. The exportation of grain to other districts, and to the west of Tirhoot this year, has, as is usual, been very extensive, but not more so, I think, than that of other years.

From inquiries made by me, and from the full rice crop of last year, there must I think be a considerable quantity of grain in the country, but it is impossible even to guess at the amount there may be. The bunneahs are of course keeping their stock light, and bringing little into market, with a view to high prices.

3. There is and will be great difficulty in collecting the first kist; in fact it is almost impossible to collect anything, as out of our four-anna kist in seer mehals amounting to Rs. , and which we had collected about at this time last year, I have only got in, up to date, Rs. 28,637-3-9. The ryots are coming in great numbers and stating that they are unable to pay. I am starting to-day on a long tour through the property, and on my return shall be able to give a better description as to the rice crop. Since my last report things have got much worse, there having been no rain, and the bunds I made have been of little use, there not being sufficient water on the rivers to flow over the country; and even if we got any quantity of rain now, it is, in my opinion, too late to do much good to the dhan, except to that little which has been kept growing by irrigation or in some low places, and the latter are nearly all dry.

The price of rice is about 13 seers per rupee, and to-day I learn it has risen to 12.

4. With regard to relief in the event of its of its being required, and of which I think there is little doubt now, I am of opinion that we should be prepared both as to work and grain; of the former there will be sufficient for many portions of the estate in the large works already sanctioned and being carried out by Mr. Stevens, and I will submit a list of others in the shape of feeders to the present roads, bunds, tanks, &c. At the same time we should promise a stock of grain, or the money we pay the people will be next to useless, owing to there perhaps being no food to be got in the locality of the works. Should the Court of Wards decide on purchasing grain, I think it would be advisable to store a quantity at each tehsildar's head-quarters, to be distributed by him as required to the people about; also to his naibs, for relief in their respective neighbourhoods. I would also have a supply of grain at each work being carried out by Mr. Stevens, to be supplied by the tehsildars, and the work-people be paid partly in grain at a fair rate, and the balance in money. This stock should, I think, be bought and sent to the different tehsils with as little delay as possible, not that I believe there will be any great immediate want, but the prices of grain is going up fast, and the large importation of grain (as I believe it would chiefly have to be brought from Bengal) would no doubt frighten the greedy bunneah and tend to keep prices down in these parts.

5. With regard to the remission of rents, there is now little doubt but that the estate will have to do so to a considerable extent, and I am of opinion it should be done early when it is ascertained what the crop really is; and to get a fair idea of this I am now going round, and shall visit as much of the property as I possibly can; and I have called on all our tehsildars and naibs to submit a full and detailed report on each village, showing the state of rice crops, also what bhadoi there was. On this I shall again visit the different tehsils for the purpose of testing their respective reports, when I shall be in a position to say where and what amount of remission should in my opinion be made.

No. 56, dated Kanhowly, the 16th October 1873.

From—W. M. Stewart, Esq., Manager of Kanhowly Estate,
To—The Collector of Tirhoot.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 539, dated 11th instant, forwarding copy of Commissioner's Circular letter No. 182, dated 7th instant, and now beg to give the information called for in your 1st and 2nd paragraphs, as well as to make a few other remarks on matters connected with the subject.

1. About one-half of the makai crop, which in itself was only a six-anna one, has been exported from these parts; the comparatively high prices of grain, consequent on its scarcity all over the country, having induced ryots and others to sell, notwithstanding that they were fully aware that unless timely rain fell, and the rubbee crop more or less secured, there would be very great distress amongst them.

2. There is no stock of food-grains in hand.

This Pergunnah (Bissarah) does not produce sufficient rice or indeed any other grain to supply the wants of the inhabitants, a large proportion of the land being taken up by tobacco, and the consequence is that all kinds of food-grains are more or less imported, which importation extends over the year.

3. No difficulty is being experienced by the zemindars in collecting the present kist, but in all probability there will be considerable difficulty in getting on the next one, which falls due in December; and should good rain not fall during the month of Kartick, the ryots will be unable to meet future demands after December.

4. At present there is no necessity in this estate to make temporary remission of rents to the ryots, but unless rain soon falls, it will be absolutely necessary in many instances to do so by and by. But it is not possible just now to say what villages will require that consideration shown them, to what extent it will be required, or whether it will be required at all.

5. This estate is not at all in a position to undertake relief works, and even if it were, I know of none that would benefit this immediate part of the country.

6. In regard to the expediency of importing rice at the expense of this estate, the remarks just made in regard to relief works fully apply also to it.

7. The makai crop, as I have said, was only a six-anna one.

A large portion of the dhan crop has been destroyed, but should rain fall, say not less than 3 or 4 inches, any time during the remainder of this month, there is every prospect of an eight-anna crop being secured, but if no rain falls during that time, the crop will not be a two-anna one. Nearly all the rubbee lands will be sown. Should good rain come now or within the next week, there will in all probability be a twelve-anna crop. If rain does not fall before the end of the month, there may be an eight-anna crop, and if none falls within the next three weeks, in all probability there will be no crop at all.

The present prices of all sorts of grain are very high and steadily advancing. For instance makai is selling at 20 seers per rupee, whereas its ordinary price at this season is 30 seers; rice, first quality, is 13½ seers; second quality, 15 seers; ordinary price, 20 to 22 seers; wheat, 10 seers per rupee; ordinary price 18 seers; and other grains in same proportion.

No. 126, dated Durbhunga, the 24th October 1873.

From—G. W. Llewhellin, Esq., Assistant Manager, Raj Durbhunga,
To—Lieutenant-Colonel J. Burn, Manager, Raj Durbhunga.

In continuation of my letter No. 123, dated 14th instant, I have the honor to state that I on that date started on a quick tour through the property for the purpose of personally and better ascertaining the state of the rice crop. I at first went through pergunnahs Tirsut and Nampore into the Panchmohallah pergunnahs, situated near and on the Nepal frontier, and where, I am sorry to say, I found the rice crop very bad indeed; in fact it could scarcely be worse, and, with the exception of a few villages both in seer and tieca mehals, where they have been able to irrigate a little from either the rivers or tanks, I may say that little in most cases consists of a few beegahs here and there. The rice crop is almost a complete failure, and rain now, though it might perhaps bring some quantity into ear, the grain would not fill as it should do. The ryots are much troubled about it, and fear a return of their sufferings of the famine in 1866, when this portion of the district suffered so much. They are cutting away the dhan in many places and trying to cultivate the land for rubbee, but it has

no moisture and the ploughs won't go into it, and the rain only can give them any rubbee crop. The bunds and pynes which have, in the event of a short rainfall, always been found so useful in securing the dhan in these mehals, have this year failed entirely, owing to there not being sufficient water in the river from which they are usually fed. I visited nearly the whole of them, and found that every effort has been made to secure water for the crop through that source, but of course when the supply in the river failed we were helpless. In addition to the usual bunds, I this year got a large one made across the Hurdee river, and dug a very large pyne for a long distance, which would, had the river been high enough, have flooded some 25 villages; also other new bunds were made, but all to no good. Should the river still rise, and be too late to benefit the rice crop, the water would assist them much for the rubbee, but I am afraid there is little chance of this, as the rise I find at the Hurdee bund is only about 2 to 3 inches per day, and the water to flood the country must be some 3 feet higher; and I hear that the same scarcity of water is felt in the Nepal territory, where they made bunds in the same river and are as badly off as we are.

There is a considerable quantity of opium done in this part of the estate, and the ryots have in most cases taken advances, but they require rain for this also.

After seeing Panchmohalla I returned on the 17th through Soorsund and proceeded along the north of the district to Oomgong, a distance of about 22 miles, through pergunnahs Bassotia, Louton, and Bhalla, in which three we have little property, and I found about the same state of things existed all the way I went, except in about ten villages on the Nepal frontier, where the Mutteeare and Semardai mahunts had constructed bunds in the Biggee river and flooded the villages, and although it came late it has done much good.

I may as well state here that I am informed that the Nepal authorities have stopped all export of grain from their side of the boundary; for a time they allowed people to take it on their heads, but since I hear they have stopped even that.

On the 18th I left Oomgong, taking a somewhat south-eastern direction till I got to Beerpore, and there struck off north-east towards the Nepal frontier, where we have a large village called Byrusilkore, and there, turning south-east, crossed the Kumla at Teelanath and proceeded across country to our Tehsildaree kutchuree at Kooriah; from there I passed through Kewan to Motipore Factory, a distance of about 38 miles. All through this part of the district (after leaving Benepore the greater portion of the country is raj property) I found the state of the crops very bad. They have drained out nearly all the tanks for irrigating, and from which water they have secured some small portion of dhan, but very little indeed. Between Oomgong and Beerpore the rice crop is almost dried up; again, in the village of Bysa they have secured by irrigating from an old dahra some small quantity, and in one village in Tolka Doondwar Burwar a portion of the crop is fair owing to their having secured water; but again the remainder of the said Tolka and through Koryah Tahar, Lallapore, Hutheai, and that line of country to Buchow, and all through to Motipore, the crop is wretched, and no rain could now benefit the greater portion of it which is fast being cut away for the cattle. Hereabout there is no means of irrigating except the little from the tanks, as the only rivers are the old bed of the Kumla and the western Bulan, which are deep-bedded rivers and are almost dry; besides this I find they have been bunded up by other people far up in Nepal and near the frontier.

On the 19th I journeyed across Bour pergunnah into Allapore, where I stopped the next day and visited a great portion of that pergunnah, and I am sorry to say that, with the exception of some small portions of a few villages, the crop is either dried or drying up fast, so much so that villages of Rs. 16,000 and 20,000 jummas won't, I hardly think, turn out 1,000 maunds of paddy. In this pergunnah it will go hard with the ryots, as rice is almost the only crop they grow, and this having failed, and no chance of even their usual small quantity of rubbee, their mahajuns refuse to advance any more, so that even now the people in this pergunnah are pushed for a living, and come to me in great numbers stating that they have no means of living.

On the 21st I started through the north-east of Allapore, and which, with the exception of a small portion in Ludnya and Burwar near a bund made in the little stream Kurruck and the same in the Goordah, nearly the whole rice crop is bad. After this I crossed over into the Bhaugulpore portion of the property, where I found the rice crop with a small exception an entire failure. In this pergunnah perhaps they are not as badly off as Allapore, owing to there being a greater variety of crops; still without rain they will have little or no rubbee, and the bhaddoi crop here was also not good.

I am sorry I have not been able to visit the other portions of the property lately, but from my personal knowledge, and from the reports of the tehsildars and various other sources, the prospect in the whole estate is most gloomy. Most of the raj ryots have exerted themselves to save the crop, and in places where there was a little water, I found them even during the night by the light of chirags lifting it on to the fields.

I am of opinion that relief in work, and also grain where necessary, should be provided by the estate at once for any one who wished to avail himself of the same. Both yourself and Mr. Stevens are of opinion that excavating tanks will be the best relief work, and there is no doubt of its being easy of supervision during the time of scarcity, and also of lasting benefit in providing a supply of good water hereafter, which want at present is much felt in many villages on the estate and the likely cause often of sickness. Under I beg to give a list of villages in which tanks could be excavated, and in which, with few exceptions, there are old

ones nearly filled up, so that there need be very little, if any, waste of land in this work I also put down some roads and bunds which could be made, and the work give relief and be of good hereafter.

Tanks.

1.	Nurgah	Pergunnah	Nurgah.
2.	Dambee	Do.	Balawerpore.
3.	Mooseerneah	Do.	Larwary.
4.	Musba	Do.	Pureharpore Mowas.
5.	Indrabad Tuhurnah	Do.	Delawerpore.
6.	Talah Moosurneah	Do.	Do.
7.	Bishoonpore	Do.	Do.
8.	Monrepore	Do.	Pureharpore Mowas.
9.	Deemabee	Do.	Do.
10.	Durhenwah	Do.	Do.
11.	Sabengangah	Do.	Do.
12.	Jugdar	Do.	Delawerpore.
13.	Baboorbund	Do.	Pureharpore Mowas.
14.	Bunnowlee	Do.	Larwary.
15.	Purbaha	Do.	Do.
16.	Radhan	Do.	Do.
17.	Bettaha	Do.	Purhear Mowas.
18.	Seerseha	Do.	Do.
19.	Inarwah and Bohiroah	Do.	Delawerpore.
20.	Bhawaneepore	Do.	Do.
21.	Koowarre	Do.	Basouter,
22.	Siswa Baugha	Do.	Pureharpore Mowas.
23.	Rampore Jupta	Do.	Delawarpore.
24.	Ramnaika	Do.	Do.
25.	Peeprakhore	Do.	Bahadoorpore.
26.	Bhika	Do.	Larwary.
27.	Bishoonpore Modouly	Do.	Do.
28.	Peoprawn	Do.	Bhalla.
29.	Bora Silko	Do.	Do.
30.	Korooh	Do.	Bochour.
31.	Seedhor	Do.	Do.
32.	Lallapore	Do.	Do.
33.	Seelea	Do.	Gour.
34.	Rakhwary	Do.	Bhour.
35.	Huddry	Do.	Do.
36.	Tookatee	Do.	Do.
37.	Godhonpore	Do.	Do.
38.	Moharail	Do.	Gopalpore.
39.	Peerojghur	Do.	Allapore.
40.	Mudna	Do.	Gour.
41.	Mohthour	Do.	Allapore.
42.	Nurhai	Do.	Do.
43.	Thangu	Do.	Do.
44.	Gohoomaboireah	Do.	Do.
45.	Chottur Chujpuprahee	Do.	Do.
46.	Dhonchiha Mottour	Do.	Do.
47.	Hattneekoriot	Do.	Do.
48.	Beniputty Khojouly	Do.	Jrail.
49.	Bonoul	Do.	Tirsut.
50.	Roshearhee	Do.	Dhorour.

In addition to the above work, I suggest that the following feeder roads be made, viz. one to branch of from the Jhanjaipore road at Phoolprass to Bullia Bazar through Mottour west of Bullia, another from Nurrya on the same road to Bhoptiahu, and a third to connect the Nurrya Bazar with the big road which is only a short distance, a fourth from Arraer to Pukrowree in Pergunnah Jrail.

I would also construct a bund in Shunkerpore Jurduah, Pergunnah Allapore, which is required, and would reclaim about 1,000 beegahs of waste land and be about 1½ miles long, and another and smaller one required in the village of Godhonpore, pergunnah Bhour.

I could also add to this many other works if required. As regards the work to be at once begun upon, I believe you have, after a consultation we had with Mr. Stevens this morning, conveyed your views to that officer on the subject.

No. 1614F, dated Mozufferpore, the 26th October 1873.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel J. Burn, Manager, Raj Durbhanga,

To—F. M. Halliday, Esq., Collector of Tirhoot.

With reference to paragraph 6 of my letter No. 1544 of 14th instant, I have the honor to forward in original letter No. 126 of 24th instant, which I have just received from Mr. Llewhellin, detailing the result of his recent tour through part of our property—a result which confirms all our worst anticipations, for it is now evident from this report, from what I have myself seen in parts of our property, and from all I have ascertained by careful inquiries from various sources, that there can be now little or no rice crop, that unless rain falls soon there will be no rubbee crop, and consequently no grain-food beyond what is now in store, until next bhadoi crop is reaped.

2. I am unwilling to delay this letter reaching you by reiterating the steps I have as yet taken to meet this distress, already communicated to you in my several demi-official notes, and in my No. 1609 of 24th instant. There is no doubt that rice in very large quantities must be imported, though I am still under the impression that there is a large quantity held in reserve by our local grain-dealers and others. I have a memorandum by me of ten men who have in store between them some two lakhs of maunds of paddy.

3. How and when extensive supplies of grain should be imported, are grave questions on which I have already ventured to submit some suggestions, and I doubt not the matter will be finally settled and active measures initiated after the approaching visit of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to Patna.

Dated Mozufferpore, the 26th October 1873.

Demi-official from—F. M. Halliday, Esq.,

To—S. C. Bayley, Esq.

To-day being Sunday, to save time I send the enclosed to you demi-officially, as you will be anxious to get Llewhellin's report of his tour. As to the relief works, I have already received a report from Burn, which goes to you officially.

The tank works are, I think, the best thing that could be undertaken, and could be commenced immediately.

I am going to write to Soorsand Rajah and others, and see if they can be stirred up to undertaking works of this kind, to give employment now. Shewhur also.

P.S.—Kindly let me have the enclosures when done with, that I may send you official copies hereafter.

No. 205, dated Chuprah, the 20th October 1873.

From—J. S. Drummond, Esq., Officiating Collector of Sarun,

To—The Commissioner of the Patna Division.

With reference to your Circular No. 182R, dated the 7th instant, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. During the past year the "bhadoi" crop on the whole may be said to have yielded fairly in many parts of the district. Paddy was about 8 to 10 annas of an ordinary crop. The rubbee, while good in some, was poor in many parts of the district, and did not on the whole exceed 12 annas, or three-fourths of an ordinary crop (*vide* paragraphs 11 and 12 of the general administration report for 1872-73). This year, however, the bhadoi crop was also on the whole a poor one, in many parts not more than 8 annas. Paddy has very generally withered up owing to an early cessation of the rains, and in places is already being cut to feed cattle with. There is no moisture in the lands for the cold weather sowings, and nothing but a heavy fall of rain within a few days (say a week or thereabouts) will secure us a rubbee crop and the small portion of paddy which has been kept up to this time by means of irrigation, &c.

3. There is no actual distress at present, but prices of food-grains are rising; the present prices here being—

Name of Bazar.	Coarse rice.	Jow, Kesaree.	Mutter.	Kodo.	Murwah.	Mahai.	Barley.	Wheat.	Gram.
Chuprah	13	19½	17	28	25	21	18	11	1

while those prevalent in his part of the district are thus given by Mr. Hodgkinson—

Marur	16½	19½	17½	23⅞	19½	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gopalgunge	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	26⅞	19	...	.....
Margunge	16½	.....	19½	.....	.....	27½	23⅞	12½	19½

4. The Bhador and Assin kists were, according to custom, collected, as the prospects were then not unfavorable. There was a probability, if we had had rain, of a good portion of the rice crop being saved and of the rubbee being sown in time; but now that the season for rain has almost expired, the rice crop has so extensively failed, and the winter sowings are at a standstill, the zemindars no doubt will experience difficulty in making their collections.

5. From Mr. Wright's report it appears that the stock of food-grains throughout the Sewan sub-division is enough to last for about six months. I however have some misgivings as to this being a fact, inasmuch as the harvest during the past year was deficient, and the bhadoi this year has been only an eight-anna crop; besides which I do not believe that the people are in the habit of keeping stocks to any great extent now-a-days.

6. There is no material exportation of food-grains from the district; but on the other hand, the rice supply is largely dependent on imports, and importation of rice from Nepal and Majhowa (whence in previous years the article was largely imported) has, I hear, then stopped by the Nepaul Government and the Majhowa Rajah; and Tirhoot, I fear, is not likely to be in a position to supply us.

7. The above facts speak for themselves, and unless grain can be extensively imported from other parts of India, I fear that there is a prospect of eventual famine. As yet, however, I do not think that there is any necessity for extra relief works beyond the repairs already sanctioned for the local roads, which will afford sufficient employment to those requiring assistance, though to make such work generally and simultaneously available throughout the district, a much larger supervising agency will be required than is at present employed.

8. From Mr. Hodgkinson's report it appears that Marur, Bhorey, Dhoboul, and Putchdeari zillahs in the Hutwah Raj suffered more or less severe losses of crops for the last four years and require immediate relief, which, the manager informs me, will be afforded by holding out employment in the construction of roads—a proposition which has been already approved by me in anticipation of your sanction (*vide* this office memorandum No. 231, dated the 14th October 1873).

9. With regard to special recommendations as to the necessity for temporary remissions to the ryots, and to the expediency of importing grains on the part of the Hutwah estates, Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows :—

"It is yet too early to make any special recommendations for remission to ryots. If a good rain fall within the next week, things would assume a very different aspect. Even now, except in the zillahs above-named, I do not think remissions will be called for, though it may be necessary to hold over a portion of the demand till the next year in many cases.

"I should prefer to wait a week or two before reporting on the expediency of importing grain on the part of this estate to any extent."

10. In conclusion I beg to state that the subject is engaging my best attention, careful inquiries are being made in different parts of the district, and a full report will be submitted on the 1st of November next, as called for in Bengal Government Circular No. 70, dated the 13th instant, received direct from the Bengal Office.

CAMP PHOOLARYA, NEAR SEGOWLEE, *dated 20th October* 1873.

MY DEAR BAYLEY,

THIS being the day fixed by you for the submission of the reply to your letter regarding the prospects of the crops, I send you the following. I have received but few answers to my written inquiries, but I have been out in camp for the last week, and from what I have myself seen, and from what I have learnt from Mr. T. Gibbon and others, there can be no doubt that the prospects of the coming year are as bad as they well can be. The "dhan" crop has almost entirely dried up, and the bhadoi was not a good crop. The prospects of the "rubbee" depend on the next week or so. Should no sufficient rain fall (of which at present there is no appearance) that crop also must be a failure. The price of common rice has been rising, and is now selling at an average rate of 18 to 20 seers the rupee. As far as I have as yet been able to ascertain, the stocks of food-grains, especially rice, are large, and, if no exportation takes place, sufficient for the wants of the people; but if exportation goes on, and such is the case now, distress hereafter is inevitable. This being the case, some attempt should absolutely be made to prevent as much as possible the grain leaving the district, and I should be glad to be informed whether you approve of the following measures I have taken with this end. I have consulted the manager of the

Betteah Raj, who is well acquainted with the condition of the people and their prospects, and have, subject to your approval, not objected to his preventing the bunneas in the Raj (which constitutes the greater part of the district) from selling rice to outsiders. He will inform them that if they wish to sell more than a retail quantity, they must sell it to the raj, and store the same till it is needed; and I propose to expend the balances of the road fund in advancing sums to the different European planters in the districts, and request them to lay them out in purchasing rice, the same to be stored through their jeth ryots and others in different villages throughout their "dehats." I would then open out relief works when the time arrives (which it has not yet), and pay the labourers in kind. I have also written to the Rajah of Ramnugger and other wealthy zemindars in the district, and pointed out to them that the prospects of the poorer classes for the coming year are very bad, that famine or great distress is imminent, and that it behoves them either to purchase and store grain for their ryots at the present (comparatively) favorable rates, or to place at my disposal funds to enable me to assist the people when the pressure begins. The following are the relief works I would propose to be taken in hand when the necessity arises:—

(1) Dhaka to Etwa Ghaut road (earthwork).
(2) Betteah to Bugoba (earthwork).
(3) Betteah to Gobindgunge (earthwork) and old Raj road, the Betteah Rajah would assist.
(4) Ramgurnah (on the Segoulee to Raksowl road) to Adapore (earthwork). This would be an entirely new road.
(5) Embankment to protect the Segowli to Raksowl road, four miles. (New.)
(6) Betteah to Champutteah (a large mart) 12 miles. (New.)

Estimates have already been made for works Nos. 1 and 2; they would be necessary for the other works. It will be seen that the price of rice is not as yet abnormally high, and it may be that it will not rise very high for another three or four months, but every one whom I have consulted agrees that it will do so hereafter.

A further report will follow on Monday next.

Yours truly,
H. KEAN.

Rainfall in inches (1867 to 1872) taken from the Meteorological Reports.

Months.	1867.						1868.					
	Patna.	Gya.	Shahabad.	Tirhoot.	Sarun.	Champarun.	Patna.	Gya.	Shahabad.	Tirhoot.	Sarun.	Champarun.
January	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·88	...	?	...	0·36	...
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	2·03	...	?	...	0·80	...
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·30	...	?	...	0·60	...
April	...	...	...	...	...	...	·70	...	?	...	0·32	...
May	...	...	...	...	...	...	2·00	...	?	...	2·62	...
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	5·06	...	5·40	...	5·45	...
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	5·73	...	3·10	...	3·20	...
August	Nil	...	...	...	9·15	...	5·86	...	7·88	...	7·91	...
September	11·55	...	...	...	17·40	...	3·42	...	6·20	...	4·45	...
October	1·30	...	...	...	6·00	...	0·04	...	0·40	...	Nil	...
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	...	?	...	Nil	...
December	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	...	?	...	Nil	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26·02	...	?	...	25·71	...

	1869.						1870.					
January	0·21	...	0·25	...	0·18	...	0·01	0·54	...	?	...	...
February	0·02	...	0·05	...	...	...	0·03	...	...	?	...	...
March	0·55	2·87	0·35	...	0·65	?	0·37	0·20	0·75	1·00	...	1·50
April	0·01	...	...	...	...	?	0·41	0·27	1·25	0·20	0·69	...
May	0·52	0·52	0·25	...	...	1·10	0·23	0·42	...	1·60	0·20	2·10
June	7·21	10·00	5·75	...	4·60	3·40	4·49	4·53	6·99	10·60	10·11	10·50
July	13·06	9·41	12·35	...	8·10	5·64	8·33	11·56	8·48	24·00	10·52	15·16
August	10·06	10·06	12·60	...	9·50	2·70	8·01	10·56	11·60	16·00	7·71	14·89
September	9·85	10·89	8·00	...	7·20	5·70	6·21	4·06	8·60	13·90	5·14	7·01
October	3·42	4·69	9·10	...	3·50	4·60	7·61	6·93	10·66	14·00	8·59	11·72
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December	...	0·20	...	...	...	0·60	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	44·91	48·64	48·70	...	33·73	23·74	35·70	39·15	48·33	?	42·96	62·88

	1871.						1872.					
January	0·05	...	...	...	...	...	2·02	0·43	2·22	2·10	2·30	0·51
February	0·02	0·17	0·01	0·60	...	0·18	0·85	1·81	0·80	0·20	0·20	...
March	0·02	0·15	0·08	...	...	...	0·02	...	0·12	0·20	0·37	...
April	1·20	2·59	0·36	1·30	1·10	...	...	0·75	0·10	0·32	...	0·50
May	4·90	1·73	4·22	4·03	2·70	6·33	1·16	0·15	0·80	4·82	1·31	2·50
June	11·01	5·68	8·26	11·65	10·00	4·87	4·83	1·64	4·37	3·70	3·21	13·40
July	14·17	16·02	12·63	18·00	13·87	10·90	8·15	10·67	13·08	16·70	11·44	13·62
August	8·61	15·45	23·50	6·91	18·71	12·93	5·54	9·82	4·39	9·63	7·00	6·06
September	18·84	6·14	11·48	35·80	24·44	23·32	7·07	5·48	9·10	11·20	12·17	13·70
October	0·50	0·04	0·45	0·33	0·85	...	1·53	1·38	10·55	1·70	0·48	...
November	...	...	...	0·40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December	0·14	0·76	0·50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	59·46	48·73	61·49	79·02	71·67	58·53	31·17	32·17	35·53	50·57	38·48	50·29

Months.	1873 (up to 11th October).					
	Patna.	Gya.	Shahabad.	Tirhoot.	Sarun.	Champarun.
January	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
February	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
March	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
April	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
June	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
July	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
August	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
September	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
October	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
November	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
December	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	30·49	35·51	37·72	28·94	33·88	41·04

No. 431BC, dated Simla, the 28th October, 1873.

RESOLUTION—By the Government of India, Public Works Department.

THE Governor-General in Council has learned with deep regret that the prospects of the crops in parts of Bengal are such that it will no doubt be necessary shortly to find work for the people as a means of relief. Where such relief becomes an urgent necessity, works must be undertaken for the purpose, if there are no well considered projects already under execution, or in such a state of preparation that they can be at once set in hand.

2. The parts of the country reported to be in the most urgent need are the Patna Division and the Rajshahye Division.

3. In the southern part of the former of these tracts, the Soane Canal project is in course of execution, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is authorized to extend active operations at once to all the branches where relief works are required, working on the rough estimates where detailed estimates are not ready. But where there are detailed estimates for works sufficiently near, such works should be preferred to those for which estimates are not yet ready.

4. The Superintending Engineer will, if required by the Bengal Government, be supplied from the Punjab Irrigation Branch, an officer of that rank having been transferred from the North-Western Provinces to the Punjab under the orders quoted in the margin.

To North-Western Provinces, No. 330E I., dated 10th October 1873
To Punjab, No. 331E.I, dated 10th October 1873.

5. In the northern part of the Patna Division there is no large project in course of execution, and works, if required, must be selected from local projects, unless the lately deferred scheme for the revision of the Gunduck Embankment (Bengal Government letter No. 4640, dated 13th September, 1873) should be found a suitable source of employment.

6. In the Rajshahye Division, the Northern Bengal Railway project has lately been completed, and was referred to the Secretary of State for sanction in the Government of India's despatch, No. 204R of the 15th instant. In anticipation of the approval of Her Majesty's Government, the Governor-General in Council is now pleased to sanction the immediate commencement of work on this railway. To strengthen the engineering staff, the greater part of the engineers now employed under Mr. Collet in surveying for the projected Western Rajpootana Railway will be withdrawn and attached to the Northern Bengal Railway.

7. Such funds as may be required for the Northern Bengal Railway and for relief works, and such additional funds as may be required for the more active prosecution of work on the Soane Canals, should be applied for at once by the Government of Bengal. For the Railway and the Soane Canal works, the funds will be assigned under the extraordinary grant; for the other works not classed as loan works, the charge will fall on the provincial revenues, or if necessary, on the imperial revenues of the year.

8. In the spring of 1869, when great scarcity existed in Upper India, the Government of India considered it right to endeavour to equalize the supplies of food-grains over a large area by arranging with the Guaranteed Railway Companies that they should lower their rates for the carriage of such grains to $\frac{1}{8}$th pie per maund mile (which was believed to be approximately the actual cost of carriage), and charge the loss that the railways would thus incur to the Government. It may possibly be again necessary to resort to this measure in some parts of the country; and should this be the case, the Government of India will be prepared to incur the same liability. In this view the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways at Calcutta should be directed to place himself forthwith in communication with the Government of Bengal, and to do everything in his power to give effect to such instructions as he may receive from the Lieutenant-Governor. The Governor-General in Council will await an expression of His Honor's opinion on this point before taking final action in the matter.

9. In making provision for this possible contingency, the Governor-General in Council relies on the hearty co-operation of the representatives of each Railway Company, and feels that the Government may rest assured that this will be given.

10. For further instructions for general guidance, the Governor-General in Council desires that the attention of officers in the Public Works Department may be drawn to the Resolution of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, No. 248-59J of 24th September, 1868, which should be republished with the present Resolution.—Chapter XIIIA of the Public Works Department Code contains a revision of the rules originally published with the Resolution of 1865.

Government of Bengal in the General Department.
" " " Irrigation Department.
" " " Public Works Department.
Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta.

ORDER.—Ordered that the above Resolution be communicated to the Governments, Departments, and Officers named in the margin for information and guidance.

And to the Financial, and Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce Departments for information.

Also, that these proceedings be reported to the Secretary of State and published in the *Gazette of India*.

C. H. DICKENS, *Col., R.A.*,
Secretary to the Government of India.

RESOLUTION.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 3rd November, 1873.

READ—

A Resolution of the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 431 B.C., dated the 28th October, 1873, on the subject of the provision of work in these Provinces for the people who may be thrown out of employment by the expected failure of the crops in many districts.

1. THE Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct the publication of this Resolution.

2. Orders for carrying out the instructions of the Government of India in regard to the Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway works will be issued in the proper departments.

The Gunduck Embankment Scheme is one which involves very difficult considerations, but it will be again carefully examined.

The proposed lowering of the railway fares has been arranged.

3. As regards works other than those above mentioned, the Lieutenant-Governor has received full authority to undertake such relief works as may seem to be necessary in various parts of the country. His view is that, to render effectual aid to the people, it is of all things most necessary that work should be offered in good time, so that the existence of public works may be known to the people at large, and those who stand in need of work may find their way to the work, and be suitably provided for, before the greatest stress comes. All experience shows that work is wanted to avert starvation rather than to save people already half-starved and unfit for work, and that it takes time to draw to public works people who are not accustomed to labor for hire. In this view, in case of reasonable apprehension of scarcity, we can hardly begin too soon.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor also believes that there can be no so sure test of the state of the country—no barometer, as it were, by which the condition of the people can be better gauged—than the degree to which they seek employment on public works. As such works are found more and more to attract classes usually self-supporting, so we may judge that there is want in the country; that is, provided that this test is established in sufficient time.

5. It is impossible yet to tell the degree to which there may be scarcity in the country. We yet trust to the mercy of Providence to avert the worst. But there can be no doubt that unless there is some very decided improvement in present prospects, there will be such shortness of crops that as soon as all hope of further employment in watering crops still alive, and sowing cold weather crops, comes to an end, the need for employment will be much greater than usual. The immediate course, then, which the Lieutenant-Governor has thought best, is to extend and enlarge the scope of the usual district works undertaken at this season in various parts of each district. He has already settled schemes of such works with the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, and has authorized the local officers to undertake them and carry them on wherever and whenever there is a demand for employment. In every part of the country, where the conditions seem to be such as to render the need of employment probable, works will be opened and employment offered. It will not be attempted in such cases to draw together foreign labour by any extraordinary means, but all labour locally offering will be accepted. The works (so far as beyond ordinary means and requirements) are undertaken in order to give labour: we do not seek labour for the sake of the works. The local officers have been assured that if the labour thus employed absorbs their local means, these will be supplemented from the general treasury.

6. General instructions in the spirit of those given to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore, have also been given by the Lieutenant-Governor to

the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan, and all Commissioners are now authorized to act in the spirit of these instructions wherever there may be need of such measures.

7. The Northern Bengal Railway runs through districts where there has been the greatest failure of rain, and where there is the greatest apprehension regarding the crops; but the people of those districts are wholly unaccustomed to labor for hire, and it may be doubtful whether they will go far from their homes for work, till they are very hard pressed indeed. It may be a question, then, whether we can rely on a single line of railway for the relief of that country generally. Deeming that roads connecting the various parts with the railway—feeder roads as they are usually called—are a necessary part of the railway system, the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to spread more widely the opportunities of employment by undertaking at the same time roads leading to the principal railway stations. The civil authorities will at once set themselves to devise the lines which will best subserve the traffic of the country, and the engineering staff of the Northern Bengal Railway will be requested to lay out and superintend these lines, which may connect the railway with the Berhampooter river system on the one side, and with the Mahanuddee on the other.

8. The note of the Lieutenant-Governor, published in the Supplement to the *Gazette* of the 10th September, 1873, explained His Honor's views regarding the great importance of improving the means of communication between the populous districts of the west and the insufficiently-peopled districts of the east, and pointed to a scheme of roads from west to east. The north-eastern portion of the Tirhoot district, and the north part of Bhaugulpore, by which such roads would pass, is the very country where the people will be most in need of employment, and these roads should certainly be undertaken at once. Durbhangah may be taken as the point of departure from roads already made, of the great Behar populations which tend to the east in search of labour. Fortunately Mr. Stevens, the able and energetic Engineer of the Durbhangah Estate, is well acquainted with this country, and has already devised the lines of road which he thinks the best. The Lieutenant-Governor has arranged with the Commissioner of Patna and Mr. Stevens, that the latter officer should lay out two lines from Durbhangah to the Koosee River, one in the direct line to Purneah, and the other by Natpore to the north towards Titaliya. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore is to arrange for the junction of these two lines with Purneah and Titaliya. From Purneah the present metalled road leads to Dengraghat on the Mahanuddee; whence to Dinagepore a line of road is already marked out, which will be taken up as a relief work. From Titaliya the road to Julpigoree may be improved, and thence there is a line by Cooch Behar to the Berhampooter. By these lines, and others in connection with the Northern Bengal Railway, complete means of communication from west to east will, it is hoped, be established north of the Ganges. Further to the south, the line from Rajmehal to Dinagepore should also receive attention.

9. In Burdwan a work already discussed, viz., the connection of the Damoodah with the Kana Nuddee, has already been put in hand, partly in the hope of obtaining an immediate supply of water, and partly in order to give employment.

In this same part of the country there has been much complaint of the want of good tanks for drinking water, of petty drainage channels, and such like improvements. There can be no doubt that petty works of this kind are at least as useful as larger works, and they certainly bring employment more effectually to the homes of the people. But, on the other hand, it would be impossible for Government to undertake and superintend such works of local improvement on private property. The Lieutenant-Governor has, however, instructed the Commissioner to ascertain whether it might be arranged that private landholders should undertake such works, Government, if necessary, advancing the money on the security of the estates. He feels sure that if the upper classes feel the duties of their position, such an arrangement should be gladly accepted by them, and be very feasible.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor feels sure that he may trust to the zeal and energy of the local officers to give effect to these orders, and that, whatever need may arise, they will not be found wanting. He feels that he can count on the thorough assistance of the European settlers. He would also express the earnest hope that the officers of Government will have the aid and co-operations of the native landholders, and generally of those classes of natives whose wealth, influence and position may enable them to contribute to the duty of assisting their poorer fellow-countrymen. The most effective work cannot be done without that assistance.

ORDERED.—That copy of this Resolution and of the Resolution of the Government of India referred to above, be forwarded to all Commissioners for information and guidance. Spare copies are forwarded for communication to all civil officers.

Also, that copies be forwarded to the Public Works Department of this Government for the issue of the necessary orders for carrying out the instructions of the Government of India in regard to the Soane Canal, and for any further action that may be required.

Also, that copies be forwarded to the Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal Railway, for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Circular No. 73.

COPY forwarded to all Commissioners.

No. 3263.

COPY to Public Works Department of this Government.

No. 3264.

COPY to Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal Railway.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

R. KNIGHT,

Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 3rd November, 1873.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE AND COMMERCE.

RESOLUTION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA.

FORT WILLIAM, *the 7th November* 1873.

The periodical reports of the state of the crops published in the *Calcutta Gazette* have shewn that the autumn harvest of rice will fail to a large extent in many districts of the provinces of Bengal and Behar, and that in some districts of the province of Behar especially there is reason to fear that the harvest of the coming spring will partially fail also. These prospects may yet be modified for the better, or for the worse, by the condition of the weather during the next three months.

2. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal brought these grave circumstances to the notice of the Government of India at the earliest possible moment. No time has been lost in devising, in concert with His Honour, the measures and the policy best adapted to avert the distress which threatens extensive and populous tracts of country; for it is certain that such losses must occur as will cause severe pressure on some classes of the population in many districts, during a period of several months.

3. As some little time must elapse before the extent of the evil can be fully known, the conduct to be pursued by the Government cannot at present be exactly decided. But the Governor General, fully recognising the advantage of publicity on such an occasion, will state the views and intentions of the Government of India so far as they can now be determined.

4. Various suggestions have been received to the effect that the Government should interfere with the trade in grain, either by prohibiting the exportation of this most important article, or by undertaking the general purchase and distribution of it throughout large tracts of country, or by regulating in some manner the prices of it in the markets. Without making any pledge as to what may or may not be done, in the event of extreme necessity arising which cannot now be foreseen, the Government is not prepared to adopt any such measures, and would always avoid them, so far or so long as they could possibly be avoided.

5. The Governor General has full confidence that the energy and enterprise of those engaged in the internal trade of British India will prove equal to the occasion, and that supplies (excepting under the conditions to be noticed hereafter) will generally be at hand to meet any deficiencies of grain in different parts of the country.

6. It has been officially reported that on the very first appearance of the prospect of a short autumn harvest, large quantities of grain were imported into the trade centres of Behar, and much evidence has since been received to the effect that grain is being despatched by the merchants without any delay or hesitation to the principal marts in the districts likely to be affected by scarcity. The Governor General is sanguine that the same commercial activity will prevail wherever it is needed, and that it will become greater and greater according as the demand for it may be intensified.

7. It has, however, been proved, by the sad experience of famines in India, that exceptional circumstances may arise whereby numbers of persons may be exposed to danger of starvation, or to disease arising from want of food. In all such cases, where human life may be at stake, the Government and its officers will do their utmost to apply the most effectual remedy that may be practicable, and will strive, by forethought and management, to prevent the occurrence of any such misfortunes.

8. There are certain respects and particulars in which the Government, while abstaining from interference with the ordinary course of trade, can render assistance towards mitigating the effects of scarcity.

9. In the first place the opportunity will be taken to prosecute with vigour the execution of public works in those districts where large numbers of persons are, or will soon be, in need of employment or in distress.

10. Orders have been given by the Government of India to enlarge the operations on the canal from the river Soane, and to begin the Northern Bengal State Railway in anticipation of the sanction of the Secretary of State, for both which works plans and estimates are ready, which works, too, will be carried on in the midst of the districts where want of employment must be most felt, and are calculated to benefit the country generally, and especially to prevent or lessen the occurrence of scarcity in future.

11. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal has been authorized to begin immediately such public works (in addition to those already in progress) as can be usefully undertaken in distressed districts, whether from funds granted by the Government of India, or from provincial funds, or from local resources.

12. The requirements for labour on all these public works will afford employment to large numbers who, by reason of the cessation or the slackness of the usual agricultural operations in a season of scarcity, may be thrown out of work.

13. Thus considerable bodies of men will be congregated on or near the works at a distance from their homes, and often in localities remote from the established markets. It will be necessary, therefore, that sufficient supplies of food be collected for their sustenance. If the accumulation of such supplies be left to the ordinary course of commerce, special pressure will be put on the grain trade in certain localities at the very time when all its resources are being taxed for the general supply of the province or district. And if the wages were to be paid in cash to so large an aggregate of labourers, an extraordinary rise of prices would be created by the action of Government, thereby aggravating the crisis in districts already placed in critical circumstances, and so far counteracting the benefit which the works were intended to secure, namely, the mitigation of the effect of the scarcity.

14. Now, in regard to those public works carried on under the orders either of the Supreme Government or of the Local Government, the State will be in the position of an employer of labour on an unusually large scale, and is justified in doing that which all other employers do, namely, selecting the mode of remunerating its work-people most acceptable to them and most suitable to the surrounding circumstances. Such mode of remuneration will generally be payment in kind, that is, in food grain. For this particular purpose, then, sufficient supplies of grain will be purchased

and laid in both by the Government of India and by the Local Government for the public works under their charge respectively. These supplies will be obtained in such a manner as to interfere as little as possible with the trade in grain and with the supplies of food ordinarily available for consumption in the neighbourhood of the works, or within the area of the distressed districts. The Governor General relies on the carefulness of the Local Government in making provision with this view. For the works to be carried on from imperial funds, the Supreme Government has resolved, in regard to its liability for the maintenance of the labourers, to arrange for obtaining supplies from provinces beyond the limits of the territories affected by the failure of the crops in Bengal and Behar. The Government of Madras and the Chief Commissioner of British Burma have accordingly been requested to make purchases gradually, through the agency of the trade, for this purpose.

15. The future arrangements for the supply of food grain for the labourers on the public works will be strictly limited according to the requirement and to the purpose in view.

16. Besides the works just described, which are to be undertaken by the Government, there are many public improvements which can be undertaken, either by corporations or other bodies, such as municipalities and trusts. For loans of money from the Government treasury to such corporations ample provision is made by Act XXIV of 1871 (the Local Public Works Loan Act). In some cases, under the rules recently promulgated in accordance with the Act, the Lieutenant-Governor is competent to make the loans on his own authority from funds which have been allotted for that purpose by the Government of India. In those cases where, under the rules, the sanction of the Government of India is necessary, any judiciously matured project, any well considered application, which may be recommended by the Local Government will meet with the immediate approval of the Government of India. If the rules in respect to preliminary enquiry and the like shall be deemed by the Lieutenant-Governor to cause delay which may be prejudicial at a critical time, His Honor is authorized to relax them temporarily.

17. For agricultural improvements the Land Improvement Act (XXVI of 1871) provides for advances of money being made by Government to any landlord or tenant desiring to make an improvement in any land of which he is in possession or occupation. The improvements specified in the Act, that is, wells, tanks, and other works for the storage and distribution of water, works for draining, reclaiming, clearing, and enclosing lands, are well suited for employing the labour which may be unemployed in the villages by reason of the stoppage of ordinary work in the fields. The Governor General earnestly hopes that many landlords will take advantage of the provisions of the Act. The rules under this Act recently promulgated by the Local Government with the sanction of the Government of India contain many precautionary provisions which are necessary in ordinary times, but which at a time of urgency might cause undesirable delay. The Lieutenant-Governor is authorized to make such relaxation of the rules as His Honor may deem advisable under the circumstances of the districts affected by the drought.

18. In reference to the local works, the Governor General desires that the levy of the road cess may be postponed in any district or portion of a district where the

Lieutenant-Governor may consider that the cess-payers are in distress. It is to be remembered that in those districts which are not so severely affected, the proceeds of the road cess will afford the means of usefully employing any surplus labour that may be thrown upon the market.

19. In the next place the Government may contribute something towards facilitating the transport of grain in the interior of the country. The Agents, therefore, of the Guaranteed Railway Companies, whose lines traverse Bengal and Behar, have been authorized to reduce by one-half the rates charged for the carriage of grain despatched to the districts affected by scarcity, the Government undertaking to reimburse the Companies for the difference thus caused in the traffic receipts. The precedent is followed which was established by the adoption of a similar course in 1869.

20. The Governor General is sure that the private steam-flotillas on the principal rivers, and the native craft which is so abundant throughout the river system of Bengal, will bear a most useful part in the conveyance of grain to the places where it is urgently needed.

21. In those places where the means of water-carriage do not exist, the grain-traders must mainly depend on the country carriage. There may, indeed, be ground for apprehension that, as the dry season advances, mortality beyond the average must arise among the draught cattle. This subject will doubtless receive the anxious consideration of the local Government and of its officers. Every aid that can be afforded by the Commissariat or other public departments will be rendered; and enquiries are being made as to the practicability of constructing tramways in the distressed districts.

22. Should the distress become severe, and should the worst anticipations be realized, the Government will assist in the formation of relief committees, and in the organization of a system of relief for those who, despite all the operations of trade, may be threatened with death or disease from want of food. The Governor General is sure that the private benevolence, which has always been conspicuous in India, will be evoked on this occasion, according as the need for its exercise shall become apparent. A central relief committee will, as soon as the Local Government shall consider it to be necessary, be formed at Calcutta as the capital of the provinces under the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. To this committee will be entrusted the general administration of the funds for relief which may be received from private sources and from the Government, and the distribution of those funds among the relief committees which the Lieutenant-Governor will establish in the districts affected by scarcity. The district relief committees will distribute assistance to the distressed, either in cash or in grain, or in prepared food, according to the instructions which they may receive from the Local Government. Any purchases of grain which may be necessary will be made either by the central committee or by the district committees. If the committees lay in supplies of grain they will be instructed to do so in the manner best calculated to avoid undue interference with the ordinary course of trade, or with the stores available for consumption in the neighbourhood.

23. The Governor General relies upon the Lieutenant-Governor to take steps for organizing these district and local committees in seasonable time, and in sufficient number, so that the measures for relief shall be far reaching and comprehensive in proportion as the distress may become wide-

spread. Whatever application His Honor may make for assistance from the ranks of the public service with a view to effectively constituting these committees, will receive immediate attention from the Government of India.

24. Inasmuch as the prevalence of want may give rise to many forms of epidemic disease, the augmenting and the reinforcing of the medical staff of all grades in the afflicted districts will be of primary importance. Any assistance which the Lieutenant-Governor may require in this respect from the Government of India will be duly accorded.

25. The Governor General is sure that non-official gentlemen, both European and Native, resident in the districts affected by scarcity, will come forward to serve on the relief committees, and will render that assistance which has proved so valuable on former occasions of a like nature.

26. Furthermore, non-official gentlemen, European and Native, zemindars, landlords, planters and others may at once render much service by undertaking the provision and distribution of grain, in localities where, from the difficulty of transport, the absence of traders, or other local circumstances, food cannot, during the period of scarcity, be obtained by the people. In such cases, the Government will be prepared to grant advances of money to non-official gentlemen who may undertake to import grain from a distance, and to distribute it at prices to be regulated according to the circumstances of the case. The condition that such grain be imported from distant places, so that the ordinary operations of the local trade may not be interfered with, must be observed. Accounts of the advances will be submitted to and passed by the Local Government; and any loss or charge which may arise upon the operations will, of course, be borne by the State.

27. The Governor General is confident also that many landholders, recognising the duty towards their tenants, their dependants, and their destitute neighbours, which is morally imposed upon them by the possession of property, will, of their own accord and from their own resources, dispense relief in the manner which they may deem to be most effectual..

28. The Governor General feels assured that the Lieutenant Governor is well aware of the necessity for preparing the local arrangements for relief beforehand, that is, before the emergency shall have actually befallen the districts in question, before the intensity of the trouble shall have begun to be felt, so that the distress may not attain such proportions that the local authorities cannot adequately deal with it, or make such progress that they cannot overtake it.

29. Hereafter, as the season shall draw near for the sowings of the next harvest, the Government will be prepared to authorize advances of money to landlords or tenants for the purchase of seed-grain wherever the Lieutenant Governor may consider such a measure to be desirable.

30. It is to be hoped that, in the populous tracts visited or threatened by distress, unemployed labourers may emigrate to places where food is in comparative plenty, where a special demand exists for their labour, where culturable waste abounds, such as the tea-districts, the Doars, the provinces of Assam, and of British Burma. If it be found possible for the Government to facilitate such emigration, directly or indirectly, the Governor General will be glad to receive any suggestions which the Lieutenant Governor may be able to make.

31. Having given such instructions as seem to be called for at the present time, the Governor General requests that the Government of Bengal will transmit periodically at short intervals to the Government of India full reports on the state and prospects of the crops, the stock of food, so far as it can be ascertained, the public works in progress, the relief operations, if any, and all other circumstances relating to the scarcity. Together with these reports there should be forwarded the opinions of the district officers, formed on the most recent data obtainable. The Governor General is satisfied that these opinions will be given fully, unreservedly, and promptly, even though time may not have admitted of their being precisely elaborated, and though they may be subject to subsequent correction and verification. Full information on these matters will be published from time to time.

32. Lastly, the Governor General places full reliance upon the foresight and the energy of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to provide for and to cope with the difficulties which may spring from the drought and scarcity; and upon the zeal and experience with which His Honor's efforts will be seconded by the officers of all grades and branches of the public service. He feels the responsibility which devolves on the Government of India under the present circumstances, and he trusts that with God's blessing the measures to be adopted will prove successful in averting, so far as may be humanly possible, the calamitous effects of the drought.

By order of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General.

R. B. CHAPMAN,

Secretary to the Government of India.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

No. 3300, dated Calcutta, the 7th November 1873.

From—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.
To—The Secretary to the Government of India with His Excellency the Viceroy.

In the last paragraph of my letter No. 50T, dated the 22nd October 1873, intimating to the Government of India that failure of the food-crops was apprehended over the whole of Behar and over a large part of Bengal, was expressed the Lieutenant-Governor's recommendations that the exportation of food-grains from British Indian ports might be prohibited until the Government saw whether the food of our territories would probably suffice to feed the people of Bengal and Behar.

2. Since that letter was written the prospect of scarcity, distress, and perhaps even of famine, has become much more certain. The Lieutenant-Governor has been allowed the privilege of discussing these important matters with His Excellency the Viceroy; and he has submitted orally his opinion that the Government must be prepared to prohibit exportation of food from British India to other countries, unless our food-stocks turn out to be larger than is generally supposed. Sir George Campbell has gathered that His Excellency the Viceroy would not be prepared to prohibit exports of food generally from British Indian ports; indeed he believes His Lordship is opposed to any such prohibition. But he desires to submit that, even if it be decided not to interfere with the great export of 700,000 tons of rice which goes yearly from British Burmah, still the Government of India might very reasonably and fairly consider the expediency of interposing (by legislation if necessary) to prevent exportation of food from Bengal.

3. The port of Calcutta has in ordinary years sent away about 350,000 to 400,000 tons of food-grains per annum; in the current year it may be expected that eventually common rice in Calcutta will be too dear for export, though at this moment export is going on, as much as 94,000 maunds having been exported since the 1st of the present month to Europe; but from the ports of Chittagong and Morellgunge, whence were exported from 50,000 to 70,000 tons of rice during the last years, and from whence common rice only is exported, large consignments of rice will continue to be exported to the Mauritius, Galle, and other rice-consuming British, French, and Dutch Colonies. The rise of a rupee or so per maund in price will not prevent these Colonies from getting their supplies of Bengal rice just as heretofore, and the rice exported from Chittagong comes into the market far earlier than Burmah rice; in fact, new rice is already coming into Chittagong. The East Bengal rice moreover being "ballam" rice, is of a kind which is much more acceptable to the people of the distressed districts than Burmah rice can be. If this rice cannot be exported, it will all find its way to the distressed districts. The West Indian and other Colonies will still have many sources to indent upon, and so their populations (Indian or other) cannot suffer, so long at any rate as Burmah exports continue.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor would very earnestly solicit that exports of common rice from Bengal, or at any rate from Chittagong and Morellgunge to places outside the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, be prohibited from the 1st December up to such time as His Excellency the Viceroy may see fit.

S. J. D'S.

No. 3379.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL
IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA,
WITH THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Calcutta, — *dated* 10*th November* / *issued* *November* } 1873.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

WITH reference to the responsibilities of this Government, set forth in the resolution on the scarcity in these provinces published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* of 7th instant, and especially paragraphs 23 and 28, the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad if the principles on which immediate measures are to be taken and relief is to be given, could be somewhat more precisely laid down.

2. All that Sir George Campbell has learned on this great and most difficult subject has impressed on him the following :—

I. When failure of the crops extends over a very wide extent of country and famine results, it may attain, and on occasions has attained, such proportions that no foresight, no energy, and no measures of relief which the Government can command, can suffice adequately to deal with and overtake it. When the calamity is very severe and very widespreading, we can only partially mitigate it.

II. In the early, and it may be said the middle, stages of scarcity there must always be an extreme element of uncertainty. Our knowledge of the stocks of grain and habits of the people, of the actual produce of the fields, and of many things which act and re-act on the market, are not such as to enable us to calculate eventual results with any approach to certainty. Especially is this the case in these provinces where any system of agricultural statistics is in its infancy, and executive establishments in the interior of districts are but just formed on a very small scale.

This uncertainty becomes much greater in proportion as the failure of crops extends over a very large area.

Where the area of scarcity is moderate and well defined, we can calculate with some certainty on the supplies which may be poured in from the surrounding countries; but when the failure has extended over such an area that we cannot depend on the outside world to supply an extreme internal deficiency, the main element in our forecasts must be an unknown quantity, viz., the internal stocks, and the uncertainty is enormously increased.

III. While the Government by all means in its power avoids any negligence or undue shortcoming, there is, on the other hand, another difficulty into which we may fall; that is to say, if we give relief with too free a hand we raise expectations and create obligations, which we shall find it extremely difficult to meet.

Sir George Campbell has always put forward this last view of the case as well as the other. It has seemed to him that the people of this country are now by no means very prone to apply for relief, and that we could hardly by any means at our disposal give too much relief in times of scarcity, if necessity were to be measured by an English standard. When there has been much failure of the crops, and food is two or three times its usual price (not to say dearer than that), a very large proportion of the population, in fact the great majority of the population, are without sufficient food, and are in real need of assistance. But we have no poor law, no system of relief, and the people have been wont to feel that they must bear great privations. If the Government were to attempt to relieve all who suffer on every occasion of scarcity, the task would be too great.

3. Now, taking these three statements, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, with respect to the first, he may assume that the expressions in paragraphs 23 and 28 of the Resolution of the Government of India are not to be taken as literally holding this Government responsible to deal with and overtake the distress, however great it may be or might be; he assumes at once that, if we do the best we can, that is all that can be expected of us.

4. But the second and third statements, taken together, do, if they are admitted, raise practical questions of the most extreme difficulty and urgency; and it is because this Government is about to undertake a very great task under very wide instructions, and with so liberal means placed at its disposal, that the Lieutenant-Governor seeks some further guide in the application of those means.

5. All the elements of uncertainty now exist in these provinces in the most eminent degree. Our means of ascertaining the actual yield of the crops and other particulars, are still very far below that possessed by the Government in any other part of India. Our information regarding stocks in hand is wholly deficient. The case of Orissa having been very peculiar, and its area comparatively very limited, we have no experience of a very general failure and of famine very widely spread in Bengal in this century, though we know that such a famine did occur in the last century. Even if we could compare that failure with this, we know that the habits of the people and conditions in regard to storing grain, export, import, and everything else, have wholly changed since 1770. The only comparison which we can to some extent effectively make is with the partial failure in Bengal of 1865.

6. Limited as are our means of knowledge, the Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to think that if we had to deal with Bengal alone with its 40 millions of people, or with Behar alone with its 20 millions of people, we could presently to some extent forecast the degree of scarcity. We could only do so within very wide limits, but still we might make some forecast. As it is, we are in this position: say we roughly forecast the degree of scarcity in Behar as we may perhaps do; if we were sure that we could buy in the Bengal markets and sea-ports, and pour into Behar, we might to some exent count the cost. But as it is, we know that the crops have failed to a great degree in the Bengal districts with few exceptions, disastrously in many. It is utterly impossible to calculate with the least approach to accuracy the effect on the Bengal markets of great purchases for Behar both by private dealers and by Government for relief works and stores. We know by experience that the markets in these territories are most sensitive and sudden in their variations. There are prices that mean scarcity, and there are prices that mean famine; and we cannot tell when

a demand from one province, suffering from scarcity and threatened with famine, upon another already suffering from scarcity, may not lead to famine prices in both provinces.

7. In the North-Western Provinces, not only has there been more frequent experience of scarcity, but modern failures there have been, either not excessive in degree, or confined to one portion only of those provinces. The scarcity of 1868-69 was not excessive in degree. From Mr. Henvey's report, it appears that a large part of the kurreef crop was lost, and that the rubbee crop was not above two-thirds of an average; but "there was no general failure of food," active absence of grain, and "the agriculturalists suffered comparatively little."

The failure of 1860 was confined to the upper portion of the North-Western Provinces, and in no degree affected either Oude or the lower part of the North-Western Provinces; which on the contrary profited by an enormous exportation.

8. As an illustration of the uncertainty of these things, when the failure extends over a great area, reference may be made to the account of the Bengal Famine of 1770 as ascertained from the India Office records, and published with the "Further Report" on the Orissa Famine.

We have no means of comparing the produce of the crops of 1769 with those of the present year, and may hope that the degree of failure is not similar; but the season seems to have in some respects followed a similar course, inasmuch as the greatest scarcity was for many months supposed to be in the districts north of the Ganges and Behar, while the districts south of the Ganges, about Moorshedabad and Calcutta, were better off; yet later in the season in the middle of 1870 these latter districts (probably in consequence of exports) suffered far greater extremities than the northern districts, where the failure had been greater.

9. So again, unexpected outbreaks of famine (compared by the Famine Commission to outbreaks of cholera) frequently take place almost without warning, in out-of-the-way and secluded corners of districts cut off from communication, in consequence of a panic.

10. The present uncertainty then being great, it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor impossible to undertake beforehand measures of relief so far-reaching and comprehensive that we can make sure of adequately dealing with and overtaking all the distress that may possibly arise, unless we carry our measures by way of precautions far beyond the necessities that we can distinctly foresee. If we would make sure, we must prepare full means of relief wherever there is a chance or possibility of distress, that is, almost everywhere. This we can hardly do. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that in practice we must run some risk, and a very considerable risk. While on the one hand we must observe and act on symptoms which render extreme distress probable, we cannot afford to prepare the means to meet every case in which it may be possible. We may—and if things turn out badly probably shall—be taken by surprise in some instances.

11. When it is said that timely measures must be taken, it must be fully understood that we cannot effectually guard against distress merely by organising district and local committees and such like machinery. If we are to make sure that distress shall not get beyond our means, we must not only prepare the machinery of action, but act—store grain, build poor-houses, prepare the means of feeding, sheltering, and aiding the people. These things are not done in a day; especially as we know by experience in Orissa, grain cannot be transported at any time to feed a large population on a sudden crisis. Orissa was no doubt an extreme case; but undoubtedly in any part of the country beyond rivers and railways, if the strain on means of transport becomes too great next hot weather, the transport will break down. If we are to prepare for probable or possible relief in any locality, it seems most essential that food should be transported and stored in good time

before the crisis and when carriage is available. The question then is, when, where, and to what extent, these things are to be done when future distress is possible, or when it is probable.

12. Finally, as regards the mode and degree of relief, the questions are very difficult. The difficulties are chiefly connected with the distinction so well known in England, between in-door and out-door relief. It may be assumed that when distress is ascertained, both work, and, as far as possible, food for work will be given to all applicants, while poor-house food, and if necessary shelter, will be given to the weak, unable to work. But beyond this comes the question of the amount of relief to be given to large classes who will suffer great extremities rather than labor on public works or accept cooked food. And very much of this question of degree of relief is bound up with the other regarding the time at which relief is given. In this country, as has been said, the people certainly do not to an unusual or unreasonable degree seek relief; on the contrary, we must for the most part seek them out and offer it to them. Just in proportion as we offer relief soon and near to their homes, they will avail themselves of it. It is scarcely possible to begin relief so soon, and to carry it so far as to bring it home to all in time to avert all distress. To do all that in a limited area it is possible to do, we must not only begin on the earliest appearance of scarcity, but we must scatter relief houses broadcast so as to have one for every group of villages within reach of everyone's home. And we must give out-door relief to all who have reasonable ground for not working or coming to a relief house. It is only in this way that, beginning as early as possible, we shall get first the beggars on the surface; then the poorest people ordinarily self-supporting; then tap deeper and deeper strata, and really avert great distress. But it is almost impossible to get together at once the means of doing this over so wide an area as that in which distress is now possible.

13. The Lieutenant-Governor is very unwilling to seem to discuss rather than act, but it does appear to him that the general outcome of the resolution of the Government of India is this: "We will give you (the Local Government) men, money, and everything you can use; but on you it lies that disease and death, due to want of food, shall be averted." The Lieutenant-Governor has thought it necessary to represent that this is a burden which in its fullest extent this Government can hardly promise successfully to bear. In his opinion the area affected is so great, and the uncertainty so much precludes accurate calculation, that we cannot, with all the means at our disposal, make sure of doing all that might be done if the area were small and the degree of want could be accurately guaged. We can only take a certain amount of precautionary measures, and take them in the direction where it seems most probable that they will be needed. If happily the scarcity proves less severe, we may meet it fully, and for the most part avert very great suffering; if it unfortunately proves more severe, we must strain every nerve to do all that is possible; but we cannot hope to avert all calamity. In the uncertainty which must for some time hang over everything, the amount of precautionary measures to be adopted is a question of discretion and finance. No man can say exactly how much should be done; but some indication may be given how far the Government of India think it prudent to go without delay, and wish the Local Government to go under present circumstances.

14. In discussing these matters with His Excellency the Viceroy, His Excellency told the Lieutenant-Governor that it might be well that he should submit in writing the questions on which he felt uncertainty, and promised that, as far as possible, His Excellency's Government would indicate the principles and practice they wish to be followed. So far as the Government of India will indicate their views on the very difficult questions which form the subject of this letter, the Lieutenant-Governor will follow those views as much as he is able; and so far as the matter is left to his unfettered discretion, he will act to the best of his ability and judgment in the view that some risks must be run, but that we must apply the means at our disposal in the mode which appears on the whole most likely to be beneficial.

Some indications, which would either limit the wide responsibility of this Government, or make it clear what discretion the Lieutenant-Governor has, he would certainly like to have.

15. To bring to a short conclusion a long argument, the Lieutenant-Governor would say that, at the present moment, the question which seems to him most to press, is that of buying, transporting, and storing food in the places where it is most likely to be wanted for relief works and relief centres. As affecting both the general course of trade and the Indian exchequer, the Lieutenant-Governor would much like some decision as to what and how much it is now desirable for him to do in this respect, and how much he may spend. If he were to deal with the question solely with a view to fulfil to the very utmost the condition that distress should in no case get beyond our means without regard to the capabilities of the general exchequer, he does think that there is such a reasonable possibility of need for very widely-extended relief measures, that, to be on the safe side, he would at once undertake very extensive measures indeed; in fact, he would buy grain very largely wherever it is to be had, procure and use every possible means of transport, and prepare food depôts in almost every part of the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions, and perhaps in great part of the Burdwan Division. But he feels that if he were to act in this respect without stint or limit, he would be taking one view of the case only. If he had the whole case in his hands, his endeavour to do the very utmost to be on the safe side, as regards Bengal and Behar, would be controlled and limited by the feeling that the purchase of grain is connected with great free trade and other questions, and with large questions of imperial finance. But these great subjects are not within his control. The question of free trade or prohibition of exports has been dealt with by the Government of India. The Government of India is more fitted to deal with great trade and economic questions; the Government of India must judge how the necessities of Bengal, on the one hand, and the state of the imperial finance on the other, must regulate and control one another. The Lieutenant-Governor thus is not master of the whole case, and when a discretion is given to him it must in some way be limited. He would like, then, some general indication how far it is desirable that he should at present go in preparation for relief, and how much he may spend in the purchase of food, means of transport, &c. Perhaps it would be convenient that the sum should be named up to which he may draw on the treasury for relief purposes without farther reference.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

A. St. L. B.

Rainfall, Weather, and State and Prospects of the Crops.

Statement showing Rainfall, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops in the different Districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 8th November 1873

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks
BENGAL.		1873.				
	Western Districts.					
BURDWAN DIVISION. 1	Burdwan	Nov. 11th*	0·9	Weather in the district very hot for the time of the year. Slight showers at Raneegunge and Boodbood on the 3rd instant; slighter still at Cutwa	Prospects of crops same as before, *e.g.* bad, except in the low lands; irrigation is being carried on wherever possible. Prospects of sugarcane, cotton, and teel—oil-seed—in Raneegunge pretty good. Prices rather higher.	Fever same as before.
2	Bancoorah	" 8th	0·44	Nearly half an inch of rain fell. Mid-day unseasonably hot.	The slight rain that fell was too late to do good, except in the way of aiding the sowing of the cold weather crops. The rice on the low lands is fair, and perhaps may give a 6 or even 8-anna crop.	
3	Beerbhoom	" 8th	0·08	Hot and sultry. Slight rain on the 3rd instant	The harvest of the early rice crop is progressing; putting in of cold weather crops on patches on the banks of tanks commenced; position otherwise unchanged The rain of the 3rd instant too light to do any appreciable good to the crops. A brisk exportation going on, chiefly to the Bhangulpore and Patna Divisions. Prices stationary.	
4	Midnapore ...	" 8th	0·03	Light showers in many parts of the district during the week, but only in a few places and very partially sufficiently heavy to do any tangible good.	A little rain having fallen the prospects of the crops cannot be said to have deteriorated, but they have improved but slightly. Leasing for irrigation has quite ceased, partly because it is too late to irrigate any longer, partly because about ¼th of the area lately leased still remains to be irrigated, and the water is very low. Prices are rising steadily, rice being exported largely to Bancoorah and Calcutta.	
5	Hooghly ..	" 8th	0·22	Clear, at times cloudy; wind from north-east. Slight rain on the 4th instant.	The slight rain of the 4th instant was of no use to the rice, but will assist the sowing of the cold weather crops About three-fourths of the crop on highlands and half on lowlands are already destroyed, but more will be destroyed if no rain falls Water for irrigation is failing in many places.	
	Howrah	" 8th	Nil	Heavy clouds at the beginning of the week, and the wind shifted to the south. There was much appearance of rain coming, but never came, and all sights of it have gone.	The crops have had another dry week The rice on the highlands is gone beyond hope The rice on all lands not open to artificial irrigation is in imminent danger, and can only be saved by rain. The rice within reach of irrigation is safe, and none else; fortunately much land is capable of being irrigated. Taken all round, an outturn of one third of an average crop may be counted on.	

* Telegram of the 11th November received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No.	District	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Central Districts.	1873.				
PRESIDENCY DIVISION. 6	24-Pergunnahs	Nov. 11th*	Nil.	Still warm during the days, but cool at nights; the first three or four days of the week were cloudy There was rather a heavy fall of rain in parts of Barripore and some rain in parts of Diamond Harbour sub-division There were also light drizzling showers in parts of Satkhira, Basirhat, Barasat, and Dum-Dum sub-divisions.	It is feared, however, that the crops have not materially improved by the rains; those on the high lands are for the most part injured beyond redemption, while on the low lying lands there is still some water. The rain which has fallen will so far do good that it will enable the people to sow their cold weather crops within the area over which it fell.	Fever continues in Barripore, Basirhat, and Satkhira
7	Nuddea ..	„ 8th	0·03	Dry and hot; there was rain all over the district on the 3rd instant; it was very slight in most places, but in portions of Meherpore one and a half inches fell, and the shower is reported to have done some good in parts of the Koosteah sub-division.	The prospects of the crops have not materially altered since last report; the rain which fell on the 3rd instant was too partial to influence general prospects. The cold weather crops have been sown in some parts of the district, (viz. portions of the Koosteah and Chooadangah sub-divisions), but elsewhere sowing is still deferred owing to want of rain. Prices have risen considerably in the sudder sub-division; the highest quotation is Rs. 3 a maund at Nakassiparah; but it is reported that the mahajuns of the place have large stores in hand, but refuse to sell in hopes of a further rise. The lowest quotation is Rs. 1-12 on portions of the Meherpore and Chooadangah sub-divisions.	
8	Jessore ..	„ 8th	0·04	Clear and warm. On the 3rd and 4th instant thunder showers fell at a few places, but they were of very limited extent and short duration.	The condition and prospects are not materially altered since last week. Thunder showers fell at Jessore and Gudkhally in the sudder; Narrial and Koomarpore in Narrial; and in some parts of the Magoorah sub-divisions, and the hundredth part of an inch fell at Khoolnah. None fell at Jenidah sub-division, where it is most wanted, nor in Bagirhaut. The showers have been very local, and their aggregate effect is not such as to produce any material change in the out-look. Prices throughout the district continue to rise. At head-quarters the large rise of last week has been followed by a fall this week. Rice, which was sold at 13 and 16 seers to the rupee, being now procurable at 16 and 21 seers.	
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION. 9	Moorshedabad ..	„ 8th	0·05	Some rain fell on the 3rd instant in various parts of the district. Bhadrihat Bharutpore, and Rughoonathgunge have benefited most. The fall in other thannahs was scarcely more than a drizzling. Sky cloudy on the 8th instant.	The rain is reported to have done some good to the late rice crop in the low lands of Bhadrihat, Bharutpore, and Rughoonathgunge, and to have been everywhere of some benefit to the cold weather crops. There was not, however, sufficient to be of any advantage to the rice already withering. The cultivators are irrigating extensively wherever water is procurable, and thus preserved the crops in several places. No general improvement is, however, observed. Price of rice still rising.	

No.	District	Date of return from each district	Rainfall at Sudder station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date	Remarks.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Central Districts.—(Contd.)	1873.				
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.—(*Contd.*) 10	Dinagepore	Nov 8th	Nil	No appearance of rain, strong, dry west winds blowing daily, and no sign of a change	Very bad. The hot west winds never known here before at this time of year will spoil the little rice there is alive, while the want of rain will make the cold weather crops a failure also. Price of rice 11 to 12 seers of 96 tollahs weight per rupee	
11	Maldah	" 8th	Nil	Weather dry, nights cold wind north-easterly, clouds collected, and a few drops of rain fell in several parts of the district on the night of the 3rd instant.	There is no improvement in the state of the crops this week. No rain has fallen and the winter rice crop will be almost an entire failure, that is to say, one anna or at most a two anna crop is all that can be now hoped for. The prospect of the cold weather crop also continues bad, there is no moisture in the soil, and what cold weather crop has been sown has been much damaged by insects which are doubtless the result of the unseasonable weather. Prices of rice and paddy have somewhat improved in the last few days as compared with last week owing to imports from the eastern districts *viâ* the Mohanuddee. There is no sign of actual distress at present, and if the imports continue steady, those, with the store of rice in the district, ought to meet the demand for the present at any rate	
12	Rajshahye ..	" 8th	0·27	There was a slight fall of rain in some parts of the district in the beginning of the week. Weather has been warm, and the dew which is generally heavy at this season, has been unusually light.	The prospects of the late rice crop have not improved since last week. The cold weather crops are being sown but unless it rains soon they will suffer considerably and sowings will be suspended. The prices of rice are in most places much the same as they were last week. In Nattore, Charghat, and Bandaikhara there has been a rise in prices of some importance, due probably to increase of exportation.	A few cases of cholera have been reported from Nattore and Charghat stations.
13	Rungpore ..	" 8th	Nil	Fine and cool; no prospect of rain at present.	The prospects of the rice crop worse than ever; a 4-anna crop is the most that can be expected. Mustard is being sown extensively and tobacco is being planted out, but rain is needed. Prices seem to be rising all over the district.	
14	Bograh ..	" 8th	Nil	Dry, and unusually hot for the time of the year.	The greater part of the late rice crop is quite hopeless. Sugarcane in some parts is flourishing; several cold weather crops have been sown. The people are endeavouring to help themselves by irrigation from tanks, &c., which has done some good.	
15	Pubna ..	" 8th	Nil	Clouds kept coming up at the beginning of the week, and slight showers of rain fell during the afternoon of the 4th instant, since then it has become clear, and increased heat has set in again.	The crops are suffering as before from drought. On the Mothoora police station side the mashkalie pulse is being damaged by insects. A heavy shower of rain would still do much for the late rice now standing. It is being gradually reaped.	

No.	District	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Central Districts.—(*Contd.*)	1873.				
COOCH BEHAR DIVISION. 16	Darjeeling ..	Nov. 8th	Nil	Still no rain. Alternate clouds and sunshine; heavy dew at night. Keen north-westerly wind.	Much the same as last week. The comparative fair condition of the crops on the low lands of this district, where irrigation is freely resorted to, will, it is hoped, prevent serious distress.	
17	Julpigoree .	.....	.....	....	....	Return not received.
	Cooch Behar ..	„ 8th	Nil.	Generally cloudless ..	The late rice crop is expected to be a 10-anna one, but there is no reason to apprehend actual scarcity, as the late rice crop of last year was very abundant, and the early rice crop this year was nearly up to the average. The prospects of the principal cold weather crops—tobacco—are not injured	
	Eastern Districts.					
DACCA DIVISION. 18	Dacca ..	„ 11th*	Nil	No rain; cold weather beginning.	Prospects of crops bad. Late rice on high lands utterly gone.	Fever in Manickgunge and cholera increasing.
19	Furreedpore	„ 8th	Nil	Weather hot in the day, close in the evening and the early part of night, but cool generally towards the morning and forenoon. Sky clear during the night, but cloudy occasionally in the afternoon and evening.	No rain has fallen in this district for the past six weeks, the ground everywhere is therefore hard and caked, rendering ploughing difficult. The most lands have, however, before this been turned up, prepared, and sown in most places with pulses of all kinds, oil-seeds, and vegetables of the season, including the usual condiments—onion, garlic, chilly, coriander, &c; but rain in slight showers is much wanted to prevent this being parched up by a prolonged drought. The late rice in higher parts has already been reaped and is in course of reaping, but on the lower lands and beels it is still in ear and not sufficiently mature for harvest, and promises to be a fair crop, or about three-fourths of an average crop. The price of rice has fallen slightly owing to the early rice (aus) and early late rice (amun) being in the market, the cultivators selling as much as they do not need for their rents; but being new rice, is not considered wholesome, and is not in much demand. New rice selling in several places at 18, 19, and 20 seers per rupee, according to quality. The people, not yet having realized the scanty crops in the surrounding districts, are still looking forward as in other years to importations from them for their future supplies. The sugar cane in most places has been reaped, and the date trees all over the district are undergoing tapping for manufacturing molasses.	A few cases of cholera, some of them fatal, reported from the south-east of the district in the tract bordering on Madaripore, but the epidemic does not appear to have spread and seems to have died out.

* Telegram of the 11th November received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*) *Eastern Districts.*—(*Cont.*)						
DACCA DIVISION.—(*Contd.*) 20	Backergunge	1873. Nov 8th	Nil	Dry, sun very powerful. Heavy shower of rain in Dukhin Sabazpore.	About the same as last week. The heavy rain in Dukhin Sabazpore has freed the crops of the insects which were damaging them. The late high tides have done good, as they have effectually irrigated many fields A 12-anna crop is still expected, and in Patnakhali and in the Backergunge thannah there will be probably as much as 14 annas. The price of rice suddenly rose, but it has fallen again somewhat.	
21	Mymensing	" 8th	Nil	There is said to have been heavy rain in the south of the district on the 3rd and 4th instant.	The rains have benefited the crops in portions of the south and centre of the district, and the prospects have materially improved in consequence. The Collector estimates the probable out turn of the different sorts of rice crops in this district during the present year to be about a 10-anna crop	
22	Sylhet	" 1st	Nil	Cloudy in the middle of the week, and very close during the day since Thursday Signs of a coming storm or heavy rain at the full moon	Same as last week.	
23	Cachar	" 1st	Nil	Fair ...	Taking an average crop from 12 to 14 annas of a full crop, the prospects at present are that the district will yield a 10-anna crop or more.	
CHITTAGONG DIVISION. 24	Chittagong	" 1st	A few drops on the 29th October.	Fine and dry, but still hot, except in the early morning	Insects reported doing damage in Meerkaserai and Seetacoond (northern seaboard) Reports from other places generally favorable, but a fall of rain would do much good.	
25	Noakhally	" 1st	Nil	Weather cool and pleasant	In the jurisdiction of the Sudharam, Bamnie, Sundeep, and Hatea police stations, the late rice is reported to have been injured by the "Sani" and "Majah" insects; and in that of Ameergunge and Ramgunge, to have suffered for want of sufficient rain.	
26	Tipperah	" 8th	Nil	Cloudy and threatening up to the time of the eclipse on the night of the 4th instant, since when the sky has been clear, and the sun excessively hot Cool north wind blowing, and apparently not a chance of rain.	The reports of the rice crop from all parts are very gloomy now. Even where the crop had grown luxuriantly, the long spell of brooding weather prior to the eclipse has generated insects which are eating up the ears; what has escaped the insects cannot escape the present heat of the sun It is consequently drying up fast. Buyers for exportation are busy in different parts. Rice at Comillah Bazar was Rs. 2 per maund Sugarcane appears to be fair throughout.	
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts	" 1st	Nil	Cool throughout the whole week. No rain, but heavy dews	The paddy crop has nearly been gathered; about one-sixteenth of it is still ungathered This crop has not been very successful owing to the early cessation of rain, but there is no fear of absolute scarcity Cotton is brought for sale in considerable quantities The prospects of the latter crop are good. Mustard land is being ploughed	Low fever prevalent
	Hill Tipperah	" 1st	Nil	Still no rain; mornings and evenings cool.	No change in the prospects The paddy on the high lands has withered in most places The jooms in the hills are said to have suffered from want of rain.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BEHAR.		1873.				
PATNA DIVISION. 28	Patna	Nov. 10th*	Nil	Very little change since last week. In Barh and Behar a little rain fell on the night of Tuesday last	The little rain which fell in Barh and Behar is not enough to do any good to the rice crop, though it might benefit to a slight degree the cold weather crops. Caterpillars are reported to be doing considerable damage to the young plants of the cold weather crops in the Barh sub-division.	Health of the district, good.
29	Gya	8th	Nil	Cool. Slight shower of rain in Nowda on the 3rd instant.	Prospects are getting worse. A good deal of the paddy crop has withered up and is beyond recovery. Owing to want of moisture, most of the cold weather crop lands have not been sown, and where they have been sown the crop does not present a healthy appearance. In Nowda the slight rain appears to have done some good. There has been a slight rise in the prices since last week.	
30	Shahabad	„ 8th	Nil	The wind was in the east for two days and light clouds gathered morning and evening. It has again veered to west and has been clear and cool.	With the exception of irrigated crop, the paddy has perished. The late rice saved by artificial irrigation is being cut towards Sasseeram sub-division. About 60,000 acres of all kinds has been irrigated up to date, and of this the paddy is expected to yield a full crop. The cold weather crops on the Dearah and low lands promise well as yet, that in the high lands requires rain soon.	
31	Tirhoot	„ 8th	Nil	Hot by day and cool by night as also cloudy.	In the Durbhangha sub-division the prospects of crops are very bad for want of rain. Rice crop has been nearly destroyed. If there be no rain within a week there will be very little cold weather crops. From Sitamarhi reports from all parts are unfavorable, the fear of famine is daily increasing, the prices of rice has risen very high, prospects of paddy crop continue bad. There is no hope of saving the paddy except in places bordering on streams. The cold weather crop is being sown in several places, but the seeds do not germinate for want of moisture In many places the ground has become too hard to yield to the plough, and in Madhubani the rice crops are as bad as they can be, there being no rain as yet. The prospect of good cold weather crop is very small and in the east of the district the prospects are equally bad.	
32	Sarun	„ 8th	Nil	Fair; no signs of rain, west wind prevailing.	The paddy is being rapidly dried up for want of rain, and agriculturists are cutting it as fodder for cattle. No moisture in the lands for the cold weather sowings. Sugarcane and *kolo* are injured. Ruhur, pulse, and cotton are, however, doing well. Preliminary enquiries are being made for relief works.	

* Telegram of the 10th November received on the 11th. Shows rainfall during the seven days including the 10th instant.

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS
BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
PATNA DIVISION.—(*Contd.*)						
33	Chumparun ..	„ 8th	Nil	Hot days, cool in the mornings and evenings, west winds	From the agricultural statistical returns of the putwarees of the villages within the sudder sub-division, and the report of the Canoongoe deputed to inspect the state of the crops, it appears that there would be a total failure of the kaureef or cold weather crops, but what the Collector himself has seen within the radius of six miles from the sudder station, he is of opinion that there would be on an average more than 2 annas and less than 4 annas crops. Those on low lands and places adjacent to water supply for irrigation would give an outturn of about 8 annas, while the general average yield would be more than 2 annas The prospects of the cold weather crops are not very cheering unless rain falls soon. Relief works are not required to be opened as yet as the cultivators have lately harvested 8-anna mokai (maize), 12-anna kodo (millet), 8-anna sathi or early paddy If the lately harvested early crops and remnants of previous year are freely brought to market it would give a supply for six months to come, but the mahajuns, &c., have abstained from sending their stored grain to market for making large profits in time of the impending famine. Prices which rose gradually have been lowered a little.	
BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.						
34	Monghyr	„ 8th	0 02	Warm weather and frequent clouds coming and going; wind south.	Very bad The slight showers did not suffice to lay the dust. In pergunnah Tegrah it was heavier and prospects have slightly improved. In all other parts of the district everything is just as it was reported last week.	
35	Bhaugulpore ..	„ 11th*	0 06	On the 4th instant about half inch of rain fell over an area of thirty miles in the Banka sub-division. Weather getting quite cold.	The rain in the Banka sub-division was of great benefit. In Soopole the crops could not be worse. Prospects bad in western portion of Mudehpoorah Rice has been imported a little lately, and prices have fallen during the last few days.	General health remarkably good.
36	Purneah ..	„ 8th	Nil	No change, high west wind blowing.	Recent reports show that a good early (Bhadoi) crop has been cut on the Koosi river, from whence rice is imported to the east where in consequence of the Mohanuddee not overflowing the yield has been small, only 4 annas. The Aughany or late rice on low lands is good, but the total yield of the district will be under 4 annas Wheat, oats, and mustard are being sown everywhere, the dried up late rice being rooted up to make room for it, but unless rain falls soon the seed will not germinate. importation by train and boat has commenced.	

* Telegram of the 11th November received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding

No	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
BHAGULPORE DIVS.—(*Contd.*) 37	Sonthal Pergunnahs	Nov 8th	0·06	On Monday a rain-cloud came up from the south and went away to the north-west. Nearly half inch fell at Paharia in Sultanabad in about three hours, of which half an hour was heavy The path of the rain was thirty-six miles wide—heaviest in the Dumka Damin	A great deal of low land rice excellent. Some upland rice fair even without water Much of the rice that should be ripe now is the worst in the district, hence present hardship. Upland rice in Sultanabad plain country bad, Doman and Belpatta (east) very much better. Average of crops on a eighty miles circuit certainly not less than 8 annas, and but for the losses on the Sultanabad uplands would be 10 annas. Prospects of the cold weather crops bad, very little sown, and that little not doing well. Water much more abundant in the ground and rice much better than was expected Fair reports from the north-west parts, but extremely bad from the south-west.	
ORISSA.						
ORISSA DIVISION 38	Cuttack	„ 11th*	0·3	Weather very hot. Rain fell at Jajpore.	Earlier sarud or late rice ripening, later flowering; reports of crops fair. Cold weather crops promising.	Public health good.
39	Pooree	„ 1st	1 35	Cloudy for the most part of the week, and clear at the close.	The laghu, or second rice crop is forming ear as well as the late rice in certain places The prospect of the cold weather crops continue favorable. Khoordha sub-division—there is some insufficiency of water in certain parts and the crops are suffering to some extent. In all other parts the water supply is sufficient and winter harvest prospects good. The second rice crop is being harvested Fair yield.	
40	Balasore	„ 8th	0·7	A little rain fell on Monday since then southerly wind has prevailed with a greatly increased temperature.	The crops appear generally promising. Taking bad and good together the harvest will be a fair one Prices rising very gradually.	
CHOTA NAGPORE.						
	South-West Frontier Agency.					
41	Hazareebaugh	„ 8th	Nil	At the beginning of the week there was a little rain, inappreciable, at the sudder, but said to be one-fourth of an inch in the north.	There is no alteration at present in the prospects. Reports would show that for the whole district the crop is two-thirds of that of an average year, but it is on the high land that the crops have failed, and those lands are in the possession of the poor; the low lands that are not hurt belong to the rich	
42	Lohardugga	„ 8th	Nil	Cloudy and warm and for some days there was appearance of rain at Ranchee, but the clouds passed away, afterwards bright and clear Light rain appears to have fallen during the week to the south and south west of Ranchee in thannahs Lodhma, Torpa, and Tamar.	There is not much to add to the report of last week The rice crop generally will be a short one in consequence of long drought, and rain now will do it little good. Rain, however, is most anxiously looked for in the Palamow sub-division and the Torce pergunnah for the cold weather sowings, and if some does not fall soon, it is feared there may be a good deal of distress in those parts. Prices have a tendency to fall a little.	

* Telegram of the 11th November received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
CHOTA NAGPORE.—(*Contd*)						
	South-West Frontier Agency.—(*Contd*)	1873				
43	Singhbhoom ...	Nov. 1st	Nil	Days hot Morning and evening cool. Rain in Dhalbhoom on the 22nd October 1873.	Rain wanted for the winter crops, the grounds having been baked as hard as rock. Gram, rohur—pulse, and wheat sown sometime ago have not suffered yet, but rain is also required for them. Dhalbhoom —This part of the district has been visited by the District Superintendent. The bad reports regarding the crops have been very much exaggerated by the people. Although a great deal of damage has been done by the unseasonable cessation of the rain, there will still be in all the Tarofs, taking matters all in all, an eight annas outturn Wherever there are tanks and embankments, and there are a good many in Dhalbhoom, the crops are good, but in most other places a good deal of damage has been done There was partial rain on the 22nd October which has done a world of good. In Seraikeyla—the Rajah reported after special enquiry, the outturn will give food for about nine months; the condition of the crops is pretty much the same as in Dhalbhoom. Khursawah—from enquiries made of the people, who have come from that part, it appears that the crops will not be a bad one; favorable accounts of the appearance of the paddy are given by visitors. Porahaut—the crops of this division are moderately good, the means of irrigation being abundant, the outturn is expected to be eight annas There was abundance of rain at Chuckerdharpore about two weeks ago, and the crops there are simply magnificient and the yield will be a bumper one. Colehan—the outturn will not according to the report of the pundhan, &c, give more than six or seven months' food to the inhabitants.	
44	Maunbhoom ...	„ 8th	Nil	Cloudy and warm with showers in some parts of the district.	Where rain has fallen the rice and cold weather crops have both been benefited, but sufficient has not fallen to produce any marked improvement of the prospects for the future, which remains much as at the close of last week. The new rice is now coming into the market and prices are falling.	
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS						
45	Goalparah ..	„ 1st	Nil	Fair and bright. The clouds of previous week passed over without any rain.	The state of the late rice crops is reported to be worse in almost every part of the district. The rice plants are being parched and sowing of mustard seed has been retarded for want of rain; other crops doing well. Price of rice is daily rising.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.—(*Contd*)		1873.				
46	Kamroop ...	„ 10th	Nil	Days clear, nights cold with heavy dews.	Late rice and tea crops yet backward; cotton, sugar-cane, mustard, and pulse thriving.	Public health good
47	Durrung ...	„ 1st	Nil	Bright days and cool nights. Easterly wind prevailing.	No improvement in the state of the paddy crops. Rain much wanted for all crops.	
48	Nowgong ...	„ 1st	Nil	Heavy rain on Tuesday for a couple of hours in the centre, south, and west of the district, but none in the sudder or to the north of the Kollungs.	The rice crop is not nearly so bad or backward as might be expected in consequence of the late drought. The recent heavy rain will have done much good. The *Bhao* paddy crop is doing very well. Sugarcane good. Weather favorable for tea operations.	General health excellent
49	Seebsaugor ...	„ 1st	Nil	Weather cool, mornings foggy and cold. No indication of rain.	In Golaghat the state of the rice crop is satisfactory on the whole. In Jorehaut no change has taken place since last week. In the sudder sub-division the crop looks fair, but owing to want of rain it must be below the average.	
50	Luckimpore ...	„ 1st	Nil	The whole week was remarkably fine; on two evenings it looked very little approaching rain, but the heavy clouds passed away. There were heavy fogs at night.	The state of the crops is not very satisfactory; probably from all accounts there will not be to the south of the Berhampooter more than a half crop*; still there is apparently no anxiety; and the reports from North Luckimpore sub-division are that the crops are doing well. The cold weather crops promise well to the present time.	Public health has improved. Fever disappearing.
51	Naga Hills ...	Oct. 25th	0·71	There has been a change in the weather in this week. Mornings foggy and days cool and cloudy, indication of approaching winter.	The gathering of the joom paddy crop is coming to a close, and the outturn is larger than last year. Terai paddy looking well and the gram promises to be superior in quality. The growth of cotton has been somewhat retarded on account of the late showers of rain.	
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills	Nov. 1st	Nil	The weather has been clear and dry.	The hali, or present crop of rice has nearly all been harvested and the outturn is more plentiful than last year. All other cereals as well as potatoes and cotton are doing well.	
53	Garo Hills ...	„ 1st	Nil	There has been no appearance of rain; the weather has been very hot during the daytime; nights cool.	There is nothing much to remark about the crops of the Garo Hills. The cotton looks well in most places, and is being gathered. Some rain would do good. The late rice crops at the foot of the hills near Mankar Chur are suffering much from the long drought; and rain, if it come down now would not benefit much those on the higher lands. Prices of rice are rising, and the accounts of the adjacent districts of Mymensing and Rungpore are bad.	Fever is prevalent at the station. The health of the people generally throughout the district is good, so far as is known.

* Telegram of the 10th November received on the 11th. Shows rainfall during the seven days including the 10th instant.

Published for general information.

CALCUTTA, STATISTICAL DEPT.,
The 11th November 1873.

R. KNIGHT,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Govt. of {1873} Bengal.

STATISTICAL DEPT.

Progs. 1873.

File

No. B.

No. 3388.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE COMMRS. OF RAJSHAHYE PATNA, AND BHAUGULPORE,
AND TO THE MAGISTRATES OF DISTRICTS IN THOSE DIVISIONS.

Calcutta, the 12th November 1873.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

As it is a very great object to facilitate the transport of grain by cross roads and about the country, the Lieutenant-Gevernor thinks that it is absolutely necessary to take off, for the present season at any rate, all toll-bars, turnpikes, and ferry tolls. In some districts these tolls do, as was shown by Mr. Robinson last year, operate very much in restraint of trade; for he showed that a laden cart travelling from opposite Rajmehal to Rungpore would pay something very like Rs. 6-8 in turnpikes for a single trip.

2. The only exception the Lieutenant-Governor deems it necessary to make to the above order directing the temporary suspension of all tolls, would be in the case of ferries where ferry-boats have actually to be kept up, and carts cannot get over without the help of boats. For such ferries a new tariff should be laid down, just sufficient to pay the manjhees or others who may be working the ferry. But turnpike tolls, and tolls on dry or half dry river-beds should cease. The farmers may have to receive whatever compensation may be absolutely necessary for the stoppage of their ferry farms, and the district road fund will, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, be re-imbursed, in part at any rate, for the income it may lose.

3. I am now to request that immediate orders may be issued for taking off the toll-bars and ferry tolls at all places where carts can pass or cross without the help of boats, and for bringing into force a revised tariff of ferry charges just sufficient to re-imburse the manjhees (ferry-men) for their labor.

4. I am to ask for a report, through the Commissioner, that these orders have been carried out.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

R. S.

No. 3545.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, *dated* 21*st* *November* / *issued* *November* 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF

SIR,

UNDER instructions from His Excellency the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor directs me to forward copies of the second Weekly Narrative* regarding the failure of crops and the anticipated scarcity in Behar and parts of Bengal. The first Narrative was submitted on the 14th current under cover of my letter No. 3450.

* Up to 21st November 1873.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES TO THE NARRATIVE

Appendix A.—Note on the movements of food-grains.

Appendix B—Note on district reports regarding the prospect of the crops

Appendix C—Government of India letter No. 3003, dated 13th November 1873, with minutes of a discussion at Government House.

Appendix D—Bengal Government Circular No. 80, dated 17th November 1873, (*without* enclosures.)

Appendix E.—Note on the operations of the Irrigation Department, with one copy of a map of the Soane Canal country

Appendix F.—Major Lindsay's memorandum regarding operations on the Northern Bengal Railway, with the Bengal Government orders thereon dated the 13th November 1873.

Appendix G—Note by the Lieutenant-Governor laying down procedure under which local officers were to purchase grain for storage at Government relief works

Appendix H.—Commissioner of Bhaugulpore's letter No. 537, with enclosure, and with Bhaugulpore Collector's reply to Circular No 70, and the Lieutenant-Governor's orders upon the Commissioner's letter.

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

1. Rain and crop returns for week ending November 15th.
2. Prices-current return for week ending November 15th
3. File of replies received to Circular No. 70 of October 13th.
4. Circular of Government of Bengal, No. 78, dated 14th November
5. Circular of Government of Bengal, No. 77, dated 13th November
6. Circular of Government of Bengal, No. 79, dated 15th November 1873.

W. E. B.

Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 from 15th November to 21st November 1873.

1. The last Narrative gave a brief account of the drought and circumstances connected with it down to the 14th November. The present Narrative continues that account down to the 21st November, and also supplements it with some information which either had not been received, or, if received, had not been prepared for publication on the former date.

There has been no change in the weather. No rain has fallen in the districts where distress is anticipated, nor is there now any prospect of a fall. The cold weather seems to have set in everywhere, and in the ordinary course no rain is to be expected till the latter end of December or the beginning of the year when rain is not unfrequent. This absence of rain has a double effect—first, the rice crops continue to wither away; second, the sowing of the spring crops is hindered. A copy of the last weekly rain and crop returns is sent with this Narrative, but it is necessary to explain that they are for the most part only brought down to the 15th current (in some cases by telegraph down to the 18th current), while the above remarks describe the weather to date of writing, viz., the 21st November. Speaking however generally, it may be said that the returns for the 15th and 18th apply also up to the 21st November. It will be observed that Orissa, the eastern seaboard districts, and Sylhet, are still favorably reported on.

2. Prices have not risen so much as might have been expected. In no district have they yet reached famine rates, though they are of course very much higher than they were at the same time of last year. During the week under report some districts show a rise and some a fall in the price of the commoner food-grains. At Patna rice has risen from 21 seers to 13 seers to the rupee as compared with last year, but as compared with last week's return, it has fallen from 12 to 13 seers. The price of rice at Calcutta had not up to date of last report risen extravagantly as compared with last year. To-day however it is necessary to report that a rupee will only buy 12 seers of common rice in the Calcutta market, whereas at the corresponding date of last year it bought over 18 seers At Dacca rice is quoted at double its price in ordinary years. It may be noted here that during November, 1865, the last year of great scarcity, prices of common food-stuffs stood on the whole higher than they stand to-day. A return of prices-current in the different districts for the week ending November 15th is annexed to this Narrative.

Up to date of writing no news of any very great general rise or fall has come to hand, but it is right to mention that the reports from the head-quarters of each district may not exactly represent the state of things in interior and not easily accessible parts. The coarse millet called murwa is stated to have been selling in the extreme north of Bhaugulpore at 31 seers, whereas it is quoted at 16½ seers for the district. These prices, however, are sometimes very nominal. A gentleman reports that in an outlying part of Bhaugulpore he could not purchase 10 maunds of rice, while in one day in a certain village market in Purneah, rice, which sold in the morning at 14, rose by the afternoon to 8 seers. The return for Purneah district is 12 seers. A circular was issued on the 15th November, copy of which is annexed, insisting strongly on the importance of submitting careful and trustworthy returns of prices-current during the present crisis. When prices are subject to sudden and violent variations, it is difficult to say what the ruling price is; but all that care and attention can do to eliminate error is being done.

3. Some inquiries have been made into the movement of food-grains which have taken place in those provinces during the last few weeks. The

result of these inquiries is collated in Appendix A. It cannot be said that the result is very encouraging. It is not such as the rise in prices would lead one to expect. Indeed, in face of the daily consumption of food by the 67 millions of these provinces, the circulation of grain assumes very small proportions. The population of the Patna Division alone would consume on famine allowances 150,000 maunds of food-grains daily.

4. At paragraph 7 of last week's Narrative were stated the terms in which the Lieutenant-Governor had in October last asked for a special weekly report regarding the condition and prospects of the crops and of the food-supply in each district. Replies have now been received from almost every district. One set of these replies is sent herewith, in accordance with the instructions conveyed in paragraph 31 of the Government of India Resolution of the 7th November. With future narratives it is proposed to send only reports from the distressed districts and any other reports of special interest and importance. But as the replies to Circular No. 70 give a view of the prospect of affairs over the whole country, they are submitted for all districts so far as they have been printed. Replies for the few remaining districts will be submitted with next week's Narrative.

The district reports are very unequal in clearness and fullness; some of them, notably that from Bhaugulpore, are very distinct; while from districts where the sub-divisional system has not yet been fully introduced, the information is imperfect. The estimates offered by the district officers are confessedly rough and imperfect, and do not pretend to arithmetical accuracy. It must be borne in mind moreover that farmers, when they speak of "a full average crop," really mean a bumper crop, such as is very seldom harvested; and therefore a three-quarter crop (or twelve-anna crop, as it is called,) is in reality a good average yield. In one point most of the replies are more or less incomplete, namely, regarding the comparison between the crops, the prices, and the general outlook of the present year with 1865. The Lieutenant-Governor attaches great importance to this comparison; for according as the prospect of the present year is better or worse than 1865, we shall know whether to expect merely high prices, keen distress, and some starvation among the very poor, or a severe famine affecting a large section of the population.

Appended to this Narrative* is a note reviewing the district reports upon the prospect of the crops. The general result of that review may be summed up as follows :—

* Appendix B.

Estimated Outturn of the Food-crops of 1873-74.

In the littoral districts of Orissa and Bengal, including the southern border of the delta, population 11 millions.	From three-quarters to a full average crop.
In the lowlands of Western Bengal, the seaboard excluded, population 3½ millions.	About one-half of the yield of a full average year.
In the central delta districts, population 7 millions.	From one-half to three-quarters of a full average year.
In Northern Bengal, population 7 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In Eastern Bengal, population 7½ millions.	From one-half to two-thirds of a full average crop, except in Sylhet, where there will be a full crop.
In the up-lands of Bengal and Chota Nagpore, population 7 millions.	From one-half to three-quarters of a full average crop.
In North Behar, population 11 millions.	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In South Behar, population 8 millions,	One-quarter to one-third of a full average crop.
In Assam and the hill districts, population 3½ millions.	Three-quarters of a full average crop

Thus the districts of the lower delta of the Ganges, the littoral districts, and Sylhet (with a population of about 13 millions), are the only parts of the country where there will be an average crop. Over the greater part of Bengal proper (containing about 28 millions of souls) there will be, it is hoped, from half to

three-quarters of a full average crop; while in North Bengal and Behar (containing a population of 26 millions) the yield of the food-crops is estimated to be from one-quarter to one-third of full average years. As yet we do not know what the food-stocks may be. It may be hoped that Northern Bengal, which is ordinarily an exporting tract, must have considerable stocks from previous years, for we find that in the other exporting districts (Sylhet, Backergunge, and Orissa) considerable old stocks are this year being brought to market. But some of the Behar districts ordinarily export other produce and import a portion of their food-supply, and in such districts we can hardly hope that stocks of food are retained largely either in the hands of dealers or of growers. It would be unavailing to offer any estimate of the number of tons of food which are short, and which will have to be supplied; but so much may be assumed that, if an average food-crop would have carried the people of Behar and North Bengal on till next October, and would have left them a small surplus stock, then in the present year, when they have probably less than half of the annual yield, they must either eat very much less, or must supply the deficiency from reserves or from outside. The districts which have one-half the usual crop or more will manage to feed themselves one way or another, though relief works may be required for landless laborers in some parts of them. It is for the Behar and North Bengal tracts that the Lieutenant-Governor is most anxious. Very much, however, in regard to these districts will depend upon the fate of the cold weather food-crops.

5. In the last Narrative it was mentioned that before the departure of His Excellency the Viceroy from Calcutta, the Lieutenant-Governor had again proposed to stop the exportation of food-grains to foreign ports from Bengal, had asked for a famine credit of 50 lakhs to begin with, and had solicited more definite instructions as to the extent of the preparations he was to make to meet possible, but not certain, distress. The nature of the answers returned to the Lieutenant-Governor was briefly indicated. Full and specific replies have now come to hand, and are annexed to this Narrative (Appendix C).

No. 2980, dated 12th November 1873, from the Secretary in the Financial Department.

No. 3003, dated 18th November 1873, from the Secretary in the Financial Department.

Memorandum of proceedings at a meeting held at Government House, Calcutta, on the 10th November.

6. The general principles and policy to be followed in providing against famine having been settled by the Government of India, it remains to describe how they have been carried out by the Government of Bengal. Many orders in the spirit of those subsequently formulated had already been issued demi-officially and otherwise in anticipation of the issue of official orders. The Lieutenant-Governor had already, on the 11th of November, caused a demi-official letter to be addressed to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, directing them to commence the purchase of grain for use on relief works. They were told that the grain must be purchased from a distance, and that operations must, as far as possible, be carried on through the ordinary traders. They were warned to make preparations for storing their purchases at convenient sites. In order to leave the Calcutta market open, they were told not to purchase in that market if they could avoid doing so. They were also directed to look up, and where possible take measures to improve, the means of transport, and to prepare to make advances of money in assistance of trade and private landed improvements.

Immediately on receipt of the official orders of the Government of India, definite orders were promulgated in the circular instructions of the 17th November hereto annexed (Appendix D). The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that this circular sets forth clearly and precisely the present policy and action sanctioned by the Government of India. It is begged that reference may be made to this paper for a full exposition of the course now being pursued.

In paragraph 30 of the Resolution of November 7th, the Government of India called attention to the subject of emigration from distressed districts, and since the publication of that Resolution the Commissioner of British Burmah has telegraphed to say that he can make immediate arrangements for receiving

large numbers of emigrants. The Landholders' Association of Calcutta and others interested have been addressed on the subject of emigration to Assam and Cachar, and have been asked to make any suggestions they can for promoting it on a large scale. Copy of the letter to the Association has been sent to the Commissioner of British Burmah, and he has been asked whether employers of labor in Burmah would contribute to the cost of conveyance of emigrants.

The rules for making advances to landlords and tenants to enable them to improve their properties under Act XXVI of 1871 are under revision with a view to the relaxation of some of the existing restrictions on borrowing.

7. So far of orders issued. In Appendix E will be found an account submitted by the Irrigation Department of measures already taken on the Soane Canal works. It may be well to mention that though the Soane canals were by no means ready for use as irrigation channels, yet by dint of most strenuous exertions on the part of Mr. Levinge and his officers, water has been let into them, first on the left bank of the Soane and more recently on the right bank, and 69,000 acres of the thirstiest lands in Behar have been irrigated during the months of October and November, 1873. The water was given gratis, because our appliances were incomplete, the necessity was great, and we had absolutely no means of measuring up and charging water-rent on the irrigated lands. The canal works, new and old, will give plenty of labor to the destitute classes over large areas of the Patna, Gya, and Shahabad districts. From the Cossye canals in Midnapore irrigation has begun and 34,000 acres have been watered; water rents are being charged, but the penal charges against those who take water late in the season have been suspended. Unfortunately as the irrigation was extending, the volume of water in the Cossye diminished greatly; hence only a small portion of the lands on account of which application for water is made can be irrigated. In Cuttack during the dry weeks at the end of September the ryots came to the canal officers clamouring for water, and water for 1,500 additional acres was leased. But a timely downpour of rain came and saved the crops; and nothing more was heard of any demand for increased irrigation facilities.

Major Lindsay has proceeded to Dinagepore to commence operations. A memorandum by him on the Northern Bengal Railway and the orders thereon are appended (Appendix F).

Extra engineering establishments have already been appointed for famine relief works in Bengal, amounting to a total of 30 executive and 35 subordinate officers. Their destinations have not as yet been all settled, but they will be employed as they arrive on the three great imperial works already sanctioned and on the provincial works ordered in Circular No. 80 of the 17th November, according as their services may be required.

As regards the orders issued for provincial works, the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye have, in accordance with their instructions, been making purchases of grain to feed the laborers where necessity arises. No return has yet been furnished of the amounts purchased. Arrangements have been made by the Lieutenant-Governor for buying in the Calcutta market through a private firm about 80,000 maunds of rice for storing in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions. In Orissa three lakhs of maunds, about 11,000 tons, have been contracted for at the favorable rate of Rs. 2-12-0 per maund delivered in Calcutta during December, January and February. Consignments from Burmah and Madras, for which the Government of India have arranged, are expected to reach a total of 10,000 tons. For the receipt, unloading, and despatch to the threatened districts of these supplies special arrangements have been made under the superintendence of Mr. G. Toynbee, C.S., who was employed on similar duty in Orissa in 1866-67. 50,000 maunds of rice have already been despatched or are at the date of writing under despatch from Calcutta to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore and the Superintending Engineer of the Soane canals, and arrangements have been made for the immediate despatch to the same destinations and to the Commissioner of Rajshahye of other consignments as they are

received from those who are purchasing on the part of Government. To-day, the 20th November, a steamer carrying about 900 tons of Government rice from Burmah is reported to have arrived in the Hooghly. If the rice is fit for immediate use it will be sent for storage at once at relief works in the distressed districts.

Intelligence has been received of the arrival at Goalundo of the steamers and flats ordered up to work on the Ganges and the inland waters of Rajshahye.

It has already been reported that the district and local officers, civil and engineers, are actually making preparations on the spot for the commencement of the relief works. As this Narrative goes to press, demi-official information has been received that work has already commenced upon the Northern Bengal Railway feeders and upon the district roads in Dinagepore. One thousand men are said to be actually at work.

From the Soopole sub-division of Bhaugulpore information has just come to hand that work has commenced under the immediate supervision of the newly appointed Superintendent of relief works.

The Manager of the Hutwah Estate commenced making a road as a relief work in October, and finds that at rates somewhat below the market rates his work is eagerly taken up.

Each of the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye has been provided with special assistance on account of work connected with scarcity and relief, while to almost every district an extra officer, exclusive of engineers, has been added to the civil staff.

8. On some few minor points it has been found necessary to issue special orders. There was some reason to doubt the complete accuracy of the rainfall returns of past years filed in the Office of the Meteorological Reporter. A circular has accordingly been issued, calling upon all district officers to compare the returns sent to them from the central office with any materials they may have in their own offices, to supply omissions and to correct errors. In addition to the weekly return of the state and prospects of the cold weather crops, and the degree to which people might be expected to find support from them, ordered by Circular No. 70 of the 13th October, the officers of the Behar districts have been further desired to submit a special and more particular report on the same points in the first week in December. All district officers have been directed to add to the returns, under Circular No. 77, a precise comparison of the present condition of their district, with its condition at the corresponding period of 1865.

The Opium Agent of Behar has been ordered to facilitate the sowing of food-crops in lands where it is ascertained that the poppy sowings have failed, and to defer the repayment of the advances made on account of the lands so re-sown till the crops have been gathered. The Lieutenant-Governor has also fully approved the action of the Board of Revenue in giving the Opium Agent of Behar authority to make advances on account of the digging of common unmetalled wells, wherever he thinks it advisable, and has urged further action in this direction. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion the digging of such wells should be encouraged to the fullest extent; as, in addition to securing a crop, work will be provided for the laboring population.

9. In paragraph 18 of the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November, it was desired that the levy of the road cess might be postponed in any district or portion of a district where the Lieutenant-Governor might consider that the cess-payers were in distress. The Lieutenant-Governor has been in correspondence with Mr. Schalch, the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, on the subject of the suspension of the road cess. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that although high prices may be expected to prevail everywhere, the agriculturists who may have even a moderate or short crop which has not wholly failed, will have a compensation in these high prices; and till the failure is extreme they suffer far less than the landless classes. It is therefore very necessary to discriminate between those cases in which an

extreme failure has involved all classes in a common distress, and a moderate or partial failure in which the laborers and non-agriculturists chiefly suffer, and in which rents are paid without very heavy remissions.

Taking the distressed districts as defined in paragraph 2 of the Circular No. 80, dated 17th November (Appendix D) the Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Commissioner of the cess districts in Behar, which are classed as wholly distressed, that if he is satisfied that all hope of a good rubbee crop is so completely gone that it is inevitable that great distress and difficulty will be felt by the body of the cess-paying ryots, he may postpone wholly the collection of the road cess till 1st October 1874, and at once notify this to the people at large by every means in his power.

To the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Burdwan, the Lieutenant-Governor has said that if in any portions of their road cess districts or in any particular estate they believe that the cess-paying ryots are reduced to present distress and rents are not realized, the cess may be suspended. The Commissioners are to use their discretion so as neither to remit the cess unnecessarily nor to press the people too much where they are really reduced to distress.

10. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore having telegraphed to officers under the North-West Government asking them to purchase grain on his account, which they declined to do without special authority, it has been arranged that all orders on the North-West Provinces shall be made through the Commissioner of Patna, and a special officer has been named by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces through whom orders may be executed. The Lieutenant-Governor has laid down distinct rules regarding the purchase of food otherwise than through the local trade, in a memorandum of which copy is appended, (see Appendix G).

The Lieutenant-Governor has been obliged to take exception to the tone lately adopted by the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore. It seemed to the Lieutenant-Governor that the Commissioner took a too strongly colored view of the imminence of famine in the north of the Bhaugulpore district, a view not altogether justified by the reports of his subordinates. A copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks on the Commissioner's letter is annexed hereto (appendix H).

11. The Lieutenant-Governor has received offers of assistance and co-operation from the Maharajah of Burdwan and from Khajeh Ashanoollah in his own name and that of his father, the well-known Khajeh Abdool Gunny, C.S.I., of Dacca. Khajeh Ashanoollah has already commenced to lay in a store of grain with a view to issuing it at cost price should a time of scarcity arrive.

12. The Native Press have taken a very gloomy view of the situation. They are not unanimous as to the time when distress may be expected to commence, but they agree in declaring, as do most of the native gentry, that very small food-stocks are now held. They advocate very strongly the stoppage of exportation.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary.

CALCUTTA,
The 21st November 1873.

Appendix A *to Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

Appendix A to the Bengal Government Special Narrative for the week ending on the 21st November, 1873.

NOTE ON THE MOVEMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS.

THE internal trade in food-stuffs is not perhaps so brisk as the rise in prices would lead one to expect. The upward Ganges trade in rice from the northern and eastern districts to the Behar districts is not at this time of year very active. From the 1st to 15th November only some 10,000 maunds rice have proceeded upwards past the Sahebgunge registering station. In addition to this there has been a small upward trade in pulses, 7,000 maunds having passed upwards within a few days. Downwards, chiefly from places in the Bhaugulpore Division, there has been a small export of wheat to Calcutta, 25,000 maunds having gone down within the first fortnight of November. Between the 15th and 19th November further consignments of wheat and pulses amounting to 20,000 maunds took this route to Calcutta.

Registering stations of river traffic are now kept up by the Eastern Bengal Railway Company at Kooshtea and Goalundo. When the Nuddea rivers become impassable, the up-country traffic passes to Calcutta by Kooshtea on the Gorai River. By this route some 39,000 maunds of food-grains, chiefly wheat and gram, passed the Kooshtea registering station in the first fortnight of November on its way from the Behar districts to Calcutta. This traffic for the most part passes Sahebgunge as well as Kooshtea.. There has been no up traffic by the Gorai route. Some 18,000 maunds, chiefly rice, has passed the Goalundo registering station upwards from the eastern districts to Maldah and places above. This trade has developed considerably during the last few days. From 1st to 7th November only 300 maunds passed up; from 8th to 11th, some 6,000 maunds; and from 11th to 15th, over 12,000 maunds were thus transported to the districts were scarcity threatens. There is also a small trade in food-stuffs past Goalundo downwards. This commenced with 6,000 maunds between 1st and 7th November, but dwindled to 1,200 between 7th and 15th. There is little or no traffic in food-stuffs on the Eastern Bengal Railway, and the reduction of rates has hitherto failed to attract it.

The rice traffic from the eastern districts and Backergunge, as well as the up-country traffic, during the dry weather reaches to Calcutta by way of the Calcutta and eastern canals, in passing through which it is registered. By this route 4,68,000 maunds of food-grains have been imported into Calcutta since 1st October, 1873, up to the 15th November.

Registering stations where tolls are collected are also kept on the Nuddea rivers, but the traffic on those rivers is at this time of the year so purely local that it has not been thought necessary to collate the returns from them.

From the 8th October up to the evening of the 19th November no less than 6,89,000 maunds were exported from Howrah, Chandernagore, and the adjacent stations to Raneegunge, the Behar districts, and the North-Western Provinces by the East Indian Railway. Of this total, Arrah took 2,15,000 maunds; Patna, 98,000; Barrh, 48,000; Buxar, 68,000; and the Loop Line, 94,000 maunds. During the last few days some 13,000 maunds a day have been exported from Howrah and Chandernagore for the Behar districts.

Of external trade in food-grains there is not much to report. The total export of rice from Calcutta from the 1st to 19th November was 1,60,000 maunds; of this 50,000 maunds have been cleared, but have not been shipped. From Chittagong we have advice of the despatch of 46,500 maunds of rice to ports other than Bengal ports from the 12th November up to the 19th.

In the month of October the exports of rice from Chittagong were to foreign ports 58,000, and to British Indian ports other than Bengal 30,000. From Orissa there was exported during the same month 6,000 maunds to foreign ports, and 20,000 maunds to British Indian ports other than Bengal. Since the 1st November up to the 19th 800 maunds rice has been imported into Calcutta from Chittagong, and 13,500 maunds from the Orissa ports. Between the same dates there has been an export of 35,000 maunds of wheat from Calcutta. The Madras merchants, who were buying in Orissa, are reported to have paused in their operations on account of the rise in prices.

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

The 21st November, 1873.

Appendix B *to Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

Appendix B to the Bengal Government Special Narrative for the week ending on the 21st November 1873.

REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT REPORTS UPON THE PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS IN EACH OF THE SEVEN TRACTS INTO WHICH BENGAL IS DIVIDED AT PARAGRAPH OF THE SPECIAL NARRATIVE

(1.) *The Lower Delta and the Littoral Districts**.—In these districts the rainfall has been fuller than elsewhere, inundation from rivers and creeks is general, and the land is thoroughly moist. In these, the chief rice-exporting districts of Bengal, the yield of the 1873 food-crops (almost exclusively rice) will range from three-quarters to a full average crop. Some of these districts will have as usual a large exportable surplus this year. The rice exported from the port of Chittagong beyond the sea, (amounting in ordinary years to 50,000 tons) comes mainly from the districts of Backergunge, Noakally, and Tipperah, and not from Chittagong itself.

* Midnapore (greater part of), Jessore, Backergunge, Noakally, Chittagong, Cuttack, Balasore, Pooree.

(2.) *Western Bengal*† *below the uplands.*—These are the most thickly-peopled tracts in Bengal. The people have been for some years past reduced by fever. The rainfall in 1873 has been very short. Though it contains large swamps, the land is not so uniformly moist as in the districts of the Delta. The total yield of the food-crops of 1873 will be under one-half of a full average crop. The early rice crop (reaped in September) was happily heavy over all this area, but this crop is barely one-fourth of the whole rice harvest of the year.

† Comprising the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah.

(3.) *The Central Delta Districts*‡.—Here the land is usually moist, the October showers have been occasional, and partial inundation from rivers is general. In some of these districts the early (September) rice crop, which has been generally good all over Bengal Proper, is nearly equal in importance to the late (December) rice crop. In these districts the total yield of the food-crop of 1873 will range from one-half to three-quarters of the outturn of a full average year.

‡ 24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Moorshedabad, Furreedpore, Pubna.

(4.) *Northern Bengal.*§—This tract, which generally has a heavy rainfall, and exports rice and other produce to an immense extent, has had this year an extraordinarily small rainfall. The food-crops are mainly rice, with perhaps a millet and pulse crop equal to 10 per cent. of the rice area. The early rice, which is about one-third of the area of the late rice, fared badly over the whole of this tract, and has nowhere yielded above half of an ordinary crop. In no district of this tract will the late (December) rice, the main crop of the country, yield more than one-third of the outturn of an ordinary year, while over large areas it will be below 10 per cent. As in the rest of Bengal Proper, the spring food-crops are very insignificant. It is feared that over the whole of this tract the total yield of the food-crops of 1873 cannot exceed from one-quarter to one-third of the outturn of an ordinary year.

§ Including the districts of Rajshaye, Maldah, Dinagepore, Bograh, Rungpore.

(5.) *Eastern Bengal.*‖—This tract exports rice and other produce largely in ordinary years, especially from Sylhet, Mymensing, and Tipperah. The rainfall is in ordinary years heavier than in Western and Southern Bengal, and it has in 1873 been steadier than in most other parts of the country. The main, almost the sole food-crops are rice. Over the whole of this tract the yield of the food-crops of 1873 will range from one-half to three-quarters of a full average crop. Export will probably go on from all these districts; but

‖ Including the districts of Dacca, Mymensing, Sylhet, Tipperah, and Cachar.

Sylhet is perhaps the only district in the group which will really have a large exportable surplus over and above the consumption of the district in ordinary years.

(6.) *The Upland Country* of Bengal and Chota Nagpore.*—This tract differs in physical characteristics from all other parts of Bengal. The ground everywhere undulates; rock is near the surface; the soil varies greatly; the variety of crops grown is greater; a large proportion of the population is non-Aryan; the people possess the science of the jungles, and live much on forest produce, such as dry mhowa (*Bassia latifolia*) flower. There is much habit of storing water in larger or smaller tanks and reservoirs, and of damming up streams from the hills. There is more likelihood of the people having stocks of grain than in the plain districts, where trade is more developed, and men sell their surplus grain at once. Over the whole of this tract the yield of 1873 will range from one-half to three-quarters of a full average year; but there are occasional spots all over the tract where the land is high and dry, and water-storage is wanting, and in these places there must be extreme failure of crops, and much distress may ensue in March or April next. The absence of large marts and of considerable traders will make it more difficult for the natural course of trade to supply the deficit of food where it may occur. Over most of this tract there is some breadth of spring food-crop, regarding which the prospects are quite uncertain.

* Including the districts of Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, a small part of Midnapore, Maunbhoom, Hazareebaugh, Lohardugga, Singbhoom, Sonthal Pergunnahs, southern tracts of Bhaugulpore, Monghyr.

(7.) The next tract is *Behar*, where other crops besides rice form a very important part of the food-supplies. Wheat, barley, and pulse are the most important spring food-crops; while maize and millets of different kinds are important autumn crops, and with barley form the staple food of the poorer classes. As an example of the difference between the Behar food-crops and those in Bengal, may be cited the case of the Sarun district, in which only one-fifth of the cultivated area is estimated to be under rice; whereas in Bengal the area of rice crop ranges from two-thirds to four-fifths of the whole cultivated land. The proportion of cultivated land in Behar occupied by other than food-crops is believed to be much larger than in Bengal. About 320,000 acres of the very best land in Behar are under opium, and about four-fifths of this opium land is irrigated from wells. Probably about 400,000 acres more may be under indigo; and there is a very large produce of rape, castor, and other oil-seeds in Behar. Parts of Behar import food in ordinary years from Eastern Bengal.

Behar divides itself naturally into distinct parts, namely—

(*a*) the tract north of the Ganges,

(*b*) the tract south of the Ganges.

(*a*) The trans-Ganges tract† is highly cultivated, and very thickly peopled. In the rich belt of land which lies just under the Himalayas and ordinarily produces a vast surplus of rice, the late rice crop has almost entirely failed. Over the rest of this tract the yield of the late rice may be from a tenth to one-twentieth of an ordinary year's outturn. The millet crop has been good, and the maize crop fair. In the low-lands of Purneah near the Koosi River, the rice outturn is better; but over the whole of this great tract the total yield of the outturn food-crops cannot exceed one-third of an ordinary year's outturn. Regarding the prospect of the spring food-crops, it is impossible to speak with certainty. In Sarun and Tirhoot much of the spring crop land was too hard and dry, and has been unsown. In Purneah, on the other hand, a very much larger breadth than usual has been put down with spring crop, and seed has almost everywhere germinated. In Purneah, rice-lands whereon the standing crop has completely withered have been ploughed up and are being sown with wheat. If rain comes in the first half of December these spring crops will give a fair outturn. If rain does not come before January, the yield from the spring crops of this tract may be but a scanty addition to the food-supply, but regarding the possibilities of the spring crop there is still, as there was at the same season in 1865, very much uncertainty.

† Including the districts of Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr, Purneah.

*(b.) South Behar** contains much less indigo land; and it contains, moreover, a very great area which is annually inundated by the Ganges, and on which excellent crops of food are produced in ordinary years. The early (September) crops of South Behar were for the most part bad, ranging from one-quarter to one-half of a full average year. On the inundated lands, the September crop (as is very often the case) was utterly destroyed.† The late rice over the whole of this tract will not yield one-quarter the outturn of a full average year. The rubbee crops sown on the inundated lands will, if we get December rains, give a fair crop; but the area actually sown with spring crops is below the average of ordinary years. In the Gya district there is a certain amount of artificial irrigation, and in the Shahabad district some 80,000 acres of rice and wheat lands will have been watered from the canal. If copious rain does not come before Christmas (by that time it almost always *does* come in Behar), the total yield of the food-crops of South Behar can hardly exceed from one-quarter to one-third of the outturn of a full average year.

* Including the districts of Patna, Gya, Shahabad, parts of Bhaugulpore, Monghyr.

† See paragraph 5 of last week's narrative regarding the very heavy rains of August in south Behar.

8. *Assam and the hill districts.*‡ In Assam and the frontier districts the rainfall has been much below the average; but on the whole the food-grain crops are fairly good. In a part of Goalparah there may, perhaps, be short supplies; but these Assam districts, though prices will no doubt be high, will probably support themselves. The yield of the food-crops in this tract may be put down at full three-quarters of the yield of an ordinary average year.

‡ Including Darjeeling, Julpigoree, Cooch Behar, Goalparah, Kamroop, Durrung, Nowgong, Seebsangor, Luckhimpore, Naga Hills, Khasia Hills, Garo Hills.

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary.

CALCUTTA,
The 20th November 1873.

S. J. D'S.

Appendix C

~~Enclosure~~ *to Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

No. 2986, dated Fort William, the 12th November 1873.

From—R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Financial Department,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 3300 and B, dated respectively the 7th and 8th November 1873, regarding the proposals made by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for prohibiting the exportation of food-grains from British Indian ports in consequence of the threatened famine in Bengal.

2. In the letter of the 7th November, reference is made to a letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 50T, dated 22nd October 1873. In reply to that part of the letter of the 22nd October in which His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor recommended that the export of rice from the Indian dominions to foreign countries should be prohibited, and also to the letters now under acknowledgment, in which His Honor advocates the prohibition of the export of food-grains from British Indian ports, and suggests that if the Viceroy should be unwilling to comply with that proposal the export of food-grains from Bengal should at least be prohibited, I am instructed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor will have observed, from the 4th paragraph of the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th November, that the Governor-General is unable to concur with His Honor upon this subject. The following extracts from a despatch addressed to the Secretary of State on the same day will explain the grounds of His Excellency's decision :—

"14. The prohibition of all export of grain from British Indian ports is strongly advocated by the native press, and is still recommended by Sir George Campbell.

It is a course which does not commend itself to my judgment. It is probable, from the experience of former years and the information which is available as to the supplies of food-grain in India, that the deficiency in Bengal and Behar can be met without recourse to importations from abroad; in the term 'abroad' I include British Burma, for Burmese rice is not imported into Bengal in ordinary years.

The rise of prices which has occurred, and which, if the prospects should become worse, must increase, will, in my opinion, of itself prevent any considerable export of the common classes of grain from Indian ports proper; and if it reaches 4 rupees a maund, it would, according to the best information I can obtain, probably bring a considerable amount of Burmese rice into the Calcutta market.

Your Grace will observe from the enclosed return that the principal exports of rice from British Indian ports begins in February, before which time there will be full information as to the probable wants of Bengal, which information must necessarily operate upon prices

Enclosure E.

15. To prohibit exports would have the effect of artificially reducing prices at the commencement of a season of scarcity, and moreover it would shake the confidence of the mercantile classes in the determination of Government to maintain the utmost freedom of trade as the best preservative against famine, and so by checking commercial operations cut off sources of supply from without which would naturally come to our aid in time of need.

16. The general principles which should guide the Government in times of scarcity were enunciated by the Government of India in 1868 after the experience of the famine in Orissa, which extended to the same districts which have suffered on the present occasion, and I have only to add that I concur generally in the opinions then expressed."

3. The conclusion at which the Governor-General arrived was strengthened by a careful consideration of the report and recommendations of Colonel Baird Smith upon the famine in the North-Western Provinces of 1860 and 1861, and of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Orissa famine of 1865 and 1866 (part III, paragraph 59); and also of the Proceedings of the Government of India and of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces during the period of scarcity in 1868 and 1869.

4. I am to add that the Governor-General considers that the minor proposal to prohibit the export of food-grains from Bengal is open to the same objections in principle which exist to the adoption of the larger measure, while it does not appear to offer any substantial advantage in exchange.

5. The natural effect of a rise in the price of rice must be to check, and ultimately to stop altogether, the export of ordinary qualities of rice from Bengal without any interference by the Government.

6. The customs returns show that already the exports of rice from Calcutta have diminished: the amount exported in October last is not one-half of the exports of the corresponding month of last year; and the Governor-General has no reason to believe that any peculiar circumstances exist to prevent the operation in Bengal of the laws which ordinarily regulate the distribution of produce.

7. The Governor-General is satisfied that no instructions that have been given to the Government of Madras can have the effect which His Honor appears to apprehend.

COPY of correspondence forwarded to Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

W. E. B.

No. 3003.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

EXPENDITURE.
Miscellaneous.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

FORT WILLIAM, *the* 13*th November* 1873.

SIR,

I AM directed to reply to your letter No. 3379, of the 10th current, respecting the arrangements to be made for averting or mitigating the effects of the scarcity in Bengal and Behar; also your letter E, of the 11th current, asking for a famine credit of fifty lakhs of rupees to be drawn against during the current official year. In these letters the Lieutenant Governor asks, that "the principles on which immediate measures are to be taken and relief is to "be given, should be somewhat more precisely laid down," whether "grain should "be stored, poor-houses built, and the means of feeding, sheltering, and aiding "the people prepared," upon what principles relief is to be administered, and "how much he may spend upon buying, transporting, and storing food in the "places where it is most likely to be wanted for relief works and relief centres" and, "generally, for some indications which would either limit the wide res-"ponsibility of his Government or make it clear what discretion the Lieutenant "Governor has."

2. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor having expressed verbally a wish to be furnished with some further instructions on the topics treated of in the Governor General's Resolution of the 7th November, a meeting was arranged on the 10th November, at which the Governor General, Sir R. Temple, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and several of his principal officers were present.

3. A précis has been made of the substance of what passed at this conference, and a copy is forwarded herewith. It will be found to comprise the answers by the Governor General to the various practical questions put, and to embody His Excellency's views on most, if not on all, of the points adverted to in your letter No. 3379 under acknowledgment.

4. The various observations by the Governor General contained in this précis are to be regarded as instructions for the guidance of the Local Government.

5. It may be desirable to observe that the policy indicated in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th instant does not include the general provision of supplies of food to districts which have suffered from the failure of the autumn rice crop, within the operations which the Government are to undertake and for which they are responsible.

6. For the general distribution of supplies at the present time His Excellency has announced, in paragraphs 5 and 6 of that Resolution, that he relies with confidence upon the operations of trade, and no information that he has since received leads him to modify that opinion.

7. It was stated that the action of Government would be limited, first, to arranging, by means of advances of money, for supplies in such parts of the country as, by reason of distance from the main lines of communication, deficiencies of markets, or other exceptional circumstances, may, in the opinion

of the local officers, reasonably be presumed to be beyond the ordinary operations of trade; and secondly, to securing sufficient supplies of food for the labourers to be employed upon public works.

8. Chapter XIII A of the Code of Regulations for the Public Works Department, published in 1870, to which allusion was made in the Resolution of the Government of India of the 28th ultimo, contains full instructions as to the manner in which the officers of the Public Works Department should act in regard to laying in supplies of grain. Should the Lieutenant Governor consider that any of these instructions require modification, His Honor will observe, from the 1st paragraph, that the rules are "subject to any special orders that may be issued by the Local Government."

9. The reply, then, to the question of the Lieutenant Governor how much it is desirable for him to do in regard to the buying and storing of food, is that the action of the Government of Bengal should for the present be limited to providing for the consumption of the persons who are likely to be employed upon the local relief works. This reply is not intended to debar the Lieutenant Governor from acting upon his own responsibility in case of any sudden emergency, reporting the circumstances to the Government of India.

10. The information previously in the possession of the Governor General, and that laid before him at the conference held upon the 10th instant, was to the effect that it will not be necessary to have recourse to the distribution of gratuitous relief for the present. His Excellency is of opinion that relief should not be commenced before a real necessity arises, and he agrees with the Lieutenant Governor that it is undesirable to "create obligations which it would be extremely difficult to meet." He explained the manner in which supplies would be obtained through the central relief committee, when appointed, and how any particular cases which might occur previously to the appointment of the central committee should be met. All that appears now to be necessary is that no time should be lost in preparing all the machinery required to set relief operations in motion so soon as the necessity shall arise.

11. The Governor General trusts to the Lieutenant Governor to obtain from each division and district statements in categorical form of all that is proposed to be done in consequence of the scarcity, to issue suitable instructions on each statement as soon as it is received, and to give the Commissioners and District Officers discretion to act on emergency even in anticipation of His Honor's instructions.

12. As soon as may be practicable, the Governor General desires to receive abstracts of the district reports. The Government of India will then be able to form some judgment as to what will be the character and extent of the operations proposed, and of the funds, local, provincial, or imperial, which will be required.

13. Meanwhile I am to state that the Governor General, although fully determined to support the Local Government with such financial means as may be necessary, considers that there would be objections to the grant of so large a famine credit as fifty lakhs of rupees beforehand. We do not know as yet that such an expenditure as this will really be needed during the current official year 1873-74; and time has not yet admitted of even approximate estimates being prepared.

14. As regards the classes of works set forth in paragraph 2 of your letter under acknowledgment, I am to observe that among the relief works already ordered the most important are the Soane Canal, the Northern State Railway, and the Gundak embankments. These works will be carried on at the charge of the imperial treasury; and all disbursements will be made from cash supplied in the usual way through the imperial Public Works Department.

15. Thus the principal storage of grain for the consumption of the labourers upon relief works will at the outset be made at the cost of the Government of India from imperial resources.

16. As regards advances to private persons for distributing grain, I am to state that money for this purpose may be obtained from the funds, £100,000 (ten lakhs of rupees), already allotted for loans to municipalities.

17. In respect to grants to local committees equal to private subscriptions, I am to state that funds for such grants will be immediately supplied on information being received of such subscriptions being raised or promised.

18. Regarding provincial and local public works, the Governor General desires that the moneys may in the first instance be disbursed from the available balance of the provincial or local funds, and may be provisionally debited to these funds. At the end of the official year the account will be subject to adjustment. That portion of the expenditure which, though incurred on provincial or local works, is yet really undertaken only for the relief of distress, will then be transferred to the head of "Famine Charges," which was reserved as imperial by Resolution No. 2086, dated 30th March 1872. But that portion of the expenditure which represents value received by the various districts in the shape of actual works, will be left finally at the debit of provincial or local funds, unless, indeed, it be found that the aggregate of such debits is more than the provincial finances can properly bear, in which case the Government of India will be prepared to consider the grant of an additional allotment for provincial services.

19. For these reasons the Governor General will defer compliance with the application for a general famine credit, until the requirements of the case shall be more fully known.

20. In view to the expense to be incurred on relief works, the Governor General trusts to the Lieutenant Governor to curtail as much as possible public works, whether at the cost of imperial, provincial, or local funds, in those districts which are not affected by scarcity, and in which there is no special need to find employment for unemployed labour, in pursuance of the principle laid down for the North-Western Provinces in 1868-69.

21. The Governor General is fully aware that any estimate which can now be formed of the extent of the distress which may arise must necessarily be uncertain. He knows the disadvantages under which the Province of Bengal is placed as compared with some other parts of India, in regard to the collection of information. And he is confident that the Lieutenant Governor will act according to the best of his ability and judgment in fulfilling the arduous and responsible duties which will devolve upon him.

22. Furthermore, the Governor General desires to take his full share in this responsibility, and has endeavoured to comply fully with the wish expressed by the Lieutenant Governor that the principles and practice which the Government of India wish to be followed should be indicated as far as possible.

23. His Excellency trusts that the Resolutions of the Government of India of the 28th ultimo and 7th instant, together with the précis of the conference of the 10th, and this letter, will enable His Honor to act without delay, in the full confidence that he is carrying out the views of the Government of India, and that he will meet with their cordial support.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. B. CHAPMAN,

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

EXPENDITURE.
Miscellaneous.

To

No. 3003.

Dated, Fort William, the 13*th November* 1873.

Received

O. S. G. P.—No. 112 C. F.—17-11-73.—300.

Memorandum of the Proceedings at a meeting held at Government House, Calcutta, on November 10th, 1873, to consider some questions connected with the measures proposed in view of the anticipated scarcity in Bengal.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the Viceroy.
The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
The Hon'ble Sir R. Temple.
Mr. V. H. Schalch, Member of the Board of Revenue.
Mr. R. B. Chapman, Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department.
Mr. C. Bernard, Secretary to Government of Bengal.
Lord Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Presidency Division.
Mr. H. L. Dampier, Officiating Member of the Board of Revenue.
Mr. J. A. Crawford, Collector of Customs.
Colonel J. E. T. Nicolls, R. E., Chief Engineer.
Colonel H. W. Gulliver, R. E., Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department.
Mr. T. E. Ravenshaw, Commissioner of Orissa.
Mr. E. W. Molony, Commissioner, Rajshahye Division.
Major J. Lindsay, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal State Railway.
Captain E. Baring, R. A., Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY requested the Lieutenant-Governor to state anything he might wish to say.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL, referring to the Resolution of the Government of India of the 7th instant, said that, without doubt, the spirit of that Resolution was to support the Government of Bengal cordially. At the same time he could not but feel that a very grave responsibility devolved upon the latter Government. Alluding especially to the 23rd and 28th paras. of that Resolution, His Honor remarked that the Government of Bengal were apparently expected to anticipate any distress which might occur, and to take such measures beforehand as would obviate its occurrence or alleviate it, if it was inevitable. This threw a heavy responsibility on the Local Government, and he should be glad if the orders of the Government of India could be expanded; he would be glad of more explicit instructions on certain points, especially whether any and what provision was now to be made for eventual charitable relief. At present great uncertainty existed: it was difficult to state where or in what degree distress would occur, and it was, therefore difficult to take such steps now as would prevent the occurrence of distress. Was the Government of Bengal to act immediately in regard to relief centres or to defer action?

Was Government to buy and store grain for charitable relief at once? This latter point was one of extreme importance, and it was very necessary to come to some early decision on this branch of the subject. An early decision was especially necessary as regards transport; the East Indian Railway were not nearly working up to their full power at present. There was perhaps no immediate difficulty in obtaining transport, but if any sudden calamity came upon them, the demands for transport would be very heavy, and it would certainly happen that the means of transport would be choked. Lastly, as regards money, His Honor wished to know something more definite as to the funds which would be placed at his disposal. He would like to spend a great deal without further delay, if he looked at the matter solely from a Bengal point of view, but it was of course for the Government of India to decide what funds would be allotted to him.

His Excellency the Viceroy said that perhaps the best course to adopt would be to go through all the important points raised in the Resolution of the Government of India *seriatim*. First, as regards the public works which were about to be undertaken, every one recognised the importance of putting these works in hand without delay, and His Excellency would like to be informed what had actually been done with respect to imperial works, *viz.*, the Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway. Public Wo

Mr. Bernard said that orders had been given to commence two new branches of the Soane Canal at once. Mr. Levinge had a staff of officers with him and had full authority to act; he would commence working so soon as labour came in. Rice was being sent for the immediate supply of labourers by the Government of Bengal. As regards the Northern Bengal Railway, no commencement had as yet been made, but Major Lindsay was here; the arrangements were being actively made, and he hoped that in ten days the Engineers would be at work.

His Excellency the Viceroy then asked whether those works would be treated as relief works or as ordinary contract works, and in what manner the labourers would be employed and paid.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor observed that he thought it was impossible to make any hard-and-fast distinction between the labourers employed on relief works, properly so called, and those employed as ordinary contract labourers; the two cases ran so much into one another that the matter could only be decided from time to time according to circumstances.

Mr. Molony said that in his opinion men should, for the present, be employed as ordinary labourers on a daily wage. Railway works should be regarded as ordinary contract works. Light work on roads should be viewed as relief work. It was desirable, as long as possible, to pay in money and to let the labourers purchase grain. Ultimately it would probably be necessary to pay partly in grain and partly in money. A local market would have to be established and shelter provided for the workmen. For the present, Mr. Molony thought, and in this opinion Major Lindsay concurred, that the ordinary coolie huts would meet every requirement.

Major Lindsay then explained on what portions of the line it would be desirable to concentrate work for the present, and some conversation ensued as to the desirability of allowing the railway staff and the working parties collected

under them to aid in the construction of the roads which would act as feeders to the Railway. Eventually, His Excellency the Viceroy expressed his general satisfaction with the views set forth, and directed that Major Lindsay should be instructed to aid in the construction of these roads with his staff.

In answer to an enquiry from His Excellency the Viceroy, Major Lindsay said that there would be no difficulty in separating the expenditure chargeable to relief, from that which would be properly chargeable to loan works. The distinction between the two was well understood both on the Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway works, and Mr. Levinge was known to be especially alive to the importance of the distinction.

His Excellency then made some enquiries as to the additional staff which might be required to prosecute the works.

Major Lindsay said that he was in no want of senior officers, but that he should require seven or eight additional assistant engineers. In answer to His Excellency the Viceroy, Major Lindsay said that young officers of the Army with some knowledge of surveying would do the work very well. His Excellency directed Major Lindsay to send in a requisition stating the exact number he would require.

His Excellency intimated that immediate authority would be given to commence the Gunduck embankment.

Secondly, as regards local works, His Excellency observed that the Resolution of the Government of Bengal of November 3rd appeared to him to give local officers every instruction which was necessary, and asked if any additional staff was required. Lord Ulick Browne said that he did not want any additional officers at present. Mr. Molony said that he would require one or two more assistant engineers. Colonel Nicolls said that 16 engineer officers would be required; young men of from five to six years' service would do the work well.

In answer to an enquiry made by His Excellency the Viceroy, Sir George Campbell said that plans for local works had been prepared in all districts.

Mr. Molony then observed that in some portions of his division,—for instance, about Maldah and Dinajpore,—it would be desirable for Government to lay in stores of grain whilst water transport was still available. In a couple of months, when the water would have sunk low, this mode of transport would be no longer available, and it might be found difficult then to collect grain in suitable quantities.

His Excellency the Viceroy observed that as regards the purchase and storing of grain by Government, the principles laid down in the Resolution were, he thought, sufficiently clear. Government would take upon themselves the duty of providing grain for the labourers employed on public relief works, so far as might be necessary. They wished to rely as far as possible on the trade to collect and distribute supplies of food for that purpose, but when any exceptional circumstances existed which would probably hinder such an accumulation of food, and when, therefore, adequate supplies would possibly not be forthcoming without the adoption of special measures, there was no intention of precluding Government officers from taking such measures as these exceptional circumstances demanded, in order to secure a supply, including a reasonable reserve of food for persons employed on relief works. On this point the local officers could alone judge. The case mentioned by Mr. Molony appeared to be one in which Government could, through its officers, act

properly in purchasing and storing food. It would probably be desirable in most cases to purchase grain from distant markets through some of the leading merchants.

Thirdly, as regards loans to municipalities and other corporate bodies, SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL said that notices would be issued with a view to facilitating such loans, and that attention would be given to takavi advances for the construction of wells.

Transport.

HIS EXCELLENCY next adverted to the means available for transporting grain from the railway into the interior of the affected districts, as to which he expressed considerable anxiety.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL said that this was a subject of extreme importance, and it was desirable to act in the matter without delay, which might prove very prejudicial. MR. MOLONY said that, in his district, pack-bullocks formed the most ready mode of transport. MR. BERNARD pointed out that if any large number of pack-bullocks were employed it would be necessary to lay down supplies of fodder at convenient places, and that already, under the orders of the Government of Bengal, arrangements had been sanctioned for laying in supplies of fodder at some roadside stations.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY remarked that the serious attention of the local officers should be directed to this subject; any assistance which the Government of India could give, either by utilising the Commissariat or Post Office service or in any other way, would be readily given. A communication had already been made to the Government of Bengal, stating the extent to which the Commissariat could render assistance.

HIS EXCELLENCY then observed that it had been suggested to him that the traffic of grain in some parts would be facilitated if the tolls were taken off the canals. THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR said that the Government of Bengal had already arranged to take off road-tolls and to reduce actual ferry tolls to a minimum all over the distressed districts; orders to this end were actually under issue. LORD ULICK BROWNE said that a considerable amount of rice came from the Sunderbunds into Calcutta by water, and that undoubtedly the quantity would be increased if the tolls were taken off. MR. BERNARD said that this would give additional facilities for the export of rice to foreign countries, but MR. SCHALCH observed—and in this opinion MR. CHAPMAN concurred—that Calcutta must always be the great entrepôt through which rice would find its way up country, and that, in this view of the case, it would be advantageous to facilitate the accumulation of rice in Calcutta. After some further conversation, it was arranged that the Lieutenant-Governor should inquire into the matter and consider whether it was desirable to take any action.

Relief.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY then proceeded to the question of the distribution of gratuitous relief. The paragraphs in the Resolution of the Government of India which dealt with this important branch of the general subject were based upon the experience of what had taken place in former years and more especially on the reports of the Orissa Famine Commissioners and of the scarcity which prevailed in the North-Western Provinces in 1868-69.

In the 73rd paragraph of their report, the Orissa Commissioners said that "there can be no better rule than that

which has hitherto obtained, *viz.*, that Government should supply employment by means of public works, and that the public should supply the means of gratuitous relief to the helpless."

The Government would contribute an equal sum to that which had been collected from private individuals; this, however, would not, of course, constitute the maximum amount of relief which would in all cases be given by Government; the principles which would guide Government in this matter were the same as those which were adopted in the North-Western Provinces in 1868-69 and which are thus described on page 5 of Mr. Henvey's report.—" The equivalent of private contributions was not the maximum limit of the Government gift, but an appropriation for disposal by the relief committees. Charitable relief must be held primarily the care of the public, but if public charity should fail from any cause, the Government must step in and save life." In consequence of this determination the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces issued instructions on January 2nd, 1869, in the following terms:—" It is the duty of the State to see that none of its subjects starve for want of food, even if charitable contributions should (which His Honor has no reason to suppose) prove inadequate. The Lieutenant-Governor will accordingly hold every district officer personally responsible that no death occurs from starvation which could have been avoided by any exertion or arrangement on the part of the district officer or his staff." There was no intention of throwing upon the Lieutenant-Governor, and upon local officers in Bengal, any greater degree of responsibility than had been incurred by officers in the North-Western Provinces. His Excellency did not doubt that they would accept this responsibility cheerfully, and that they would perform the duties which would devolve on them with judgment and ability. It was impossible that sitting in that room, they could lay down detailed instructions to meet every case; much of the detail must be left to the officers on the spot; all that the Government of India could do was to lay down the general principles by which it would be guided and to assure the Local Government that cordial support would be afforded to it. Nothing was more clearly shown from the experience of former famines, and on no point had the Orissa Commissioners dwelt more strongly than on the necessity of being prepared beforehand with such an organisation and administrative machinery as could be brought instantly into play so as to commence relief whenever and wherever the necessity should arise. For the present it was probably not necessary to establish relief committees anywhere, but discretion should be allowed to district officers to do so on the first breaking out of any distress.

The immediate steps necessary were that the various local officers should personally inquire into the circumstances of their districts and then send up, for the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor, detailed recommendations showing the places at which they would propose to establish relief centres, the names of those who would serve on the committees, and any other points of detail which could advantageously be considered beforehand. Thus, an organisation would be planned which could be called into active existence whenever the necessity should arise. The fullest information on all points connected with the affected districts should be obtained, and with this object it would probably be necessary to strengthen the civil staff in some localities.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL said that probably a few civil servants of a few years' standing would be required.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY, in continuation of his remarks, said that as regards the central committee, he agreed with His Honor that it was not desirable to call it into existence at once, because the information in the possession of Government was as yet not sufficiently detailed and complete to allow of the case being placed before the public in such a manner as would probably attract subscriptions to any great extent, but it would be well to consider in what manner the Committee should eventually be constituted. When the central committee was once constituted, His Excellency proposed that it should supply grain to the district committees, and thus relieve Government of a most difficult task. As regards the importation of grain from a distance into the scarcity-stricken districts, much would depend upon the circumstances and position of each separate locality. It was difficult to lay down any general principles as to whether purchases should be made through local traders or not; when relief committees were once established, they should, as a general rule, make their own arrangements for the supply of grain. For the present Government would only provide grain for the labourers engaged on public works and would not supply grain for charitable distribution. His Excellency thought that it would now be possible for Mr. Bernard to frame, for the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor, detailed regulations as to the best method of organising charitable relief on the basis of those which were laid down by the Orissa Commission and in the North-Western Provinces on former occasions. These regulations would deal with the separation of the able-bodied men from those who were unable, from physical weakness or other causes, to perform work, the distribution of food to women and others who might be unable from sickness or infirmity to leave home, the times and occasions on which food should be distributed cooked or uncooked, and other similar points. As regards the general question of the effect which would be produced by the distribution of charity, His Excellency said that he did not anticipate any danger of pauperising the people. The experience of former years had shown that so soon as plenty returned and work could be obtained as in ordinary times, the people gladly availed themselves of it.

SIR G. CAMPBELL enquired whether he understood His Excellency to say that for the present Government would only lay up grain for the payment of the labourers employed on the works, and not lay up grain for charitable relief. He understood His Excellency's view to be that till relief committees were formed no grain was to be provided for relief purposes other than relief works, and that the time had not come for the formation of those committees. His Excellency answered in the affirmative.

MR. DAMPIER observed that the district committees, as soon as they were constituted, would ask Government to import rice.

HIS EXCELLENCY said that there could be no objection to the district committees drawing on the stores which Government would accumulate for the payment of labourers on the public works, or obtaining supplies of grain in such other manner as they may consider best. The action of the district committees should not be arrested pending the formation of the central committee.

MR. MOLONY said that committees were not at present required. If they were empowered, when constituted, to

draw on the Government stores collected to pay labourers on the public works, sufficient provision would have been made. Those stores should, of course, be ample.

Statistics.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY then expressed a wish that all statistical information bearing on the facts of the scarcity and the measures taken to afford relief should be kept in due form, and that periodical reports should be sent in to the Government of India.

MR. BERNARD said that this should be attended to, and that fortnightly reports should be sent to the Government of India as to the state of the affected districts.

Observations.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY then enquired of each officer present whether he wished to make any further remarks.

MR. SCHALCH observed that the Bengalees did not like Burmese rice; they would, however, probably be obliged to eat it; he thought that Government might advantageously obtain rice from Burmah to pay labourers on the public works. Fifty thousand tons of this rice might be introduced; no great loss would probably be incurred.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY said that Government had announced that they would make importations of Burmese rice. In answer to Mr. Bernard, His Excellency added that he thought it would be better for the Local Government not to operate out of India; any purchases of foreign (including Burmese) rice could best be made through the Government of India.

LORD ULICK BROWNE said that some inconvenience arose from the necessity, under existing regulations, of one European officer being present at the head quarters of each sub-division daily to superintend the issue of stamps, and suggested that these regulations should be relaxed. The officer could probably be better employed in visiting his sub-division. After some conversation, it was arranged that Sir R. Temple and Mr. Chapman should inquire into the matter with a view to seeing whether any relaxation of the existing regulations would be desirable.

The proceedings then terminated.

Appendix ~~Enclosure~~ D to *Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

Circular No. 80.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

FROM C. BERNARD, ESQ.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO ALL COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS, AND TO ALL MAGISTRATE-COLLECTORS.

Calcutta, the 17th November 1873.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward copies of the papers marginally noted, being the orders of the Government of India in regard to the measures which the Government of Bengal and its officers may properly take to help the country and the people through the impending scarcity and distress.

Government of India Resolution, dated 7th November 1873.
Government of India letter No. 3008, dated 13th November 1873, with minutes of a discussion at Government House.

2. The orders of the Government of India being appended to this letter in full, the Lieutenant-Governor does not deem it necessary to go again over the whole ground embraced by those instructions; and he will only now state briefly how matters appear to stand, and on what special points immediate action or further report is required from local officers.

Sufficient replies have come in to Circular No. 70, dated 13th October last, to show that, roughly speaking, extreme failure of crops will probably be confined to—

(1.) All the districts of the Patna Division.
(2.) All the districts of the Bhaugulpore Division, except the Sonthal Pergunnahs.
(3.) The districts of Dinagepore, Rungpore, and Bograh, and parts of Rajshahye, Maldah, and Moorshedabad, in the Rajshahye Division.

In other districts there will be short crops, but in the districts and parts of districts abovenamed the whole yield of all the food-crops of 1873-74 will, unless copious rain falls at a very early date, probably be below a six-anna crop all round; and relief works on a more or less extended scale will be required soon. There are other districts or parts of districts where the crop has been short, and where relief works may be required a little later if not now, such for instance as the Maunbhoom district, much of the Burdwan Division, and some limited portions of the Presidency Division. But in all these districts the harvests all round are expected to give an eight-anna crop; and though food will be dear, there will, it may be hoped, be no general and complete failure of the food-supply. For the present, then, and for the purposes of these orders, the tracts named in the first part of this paragraph will be treated as the distressed districts. At the same time the Commissioners of Burdwan and Chota Nagpore should watch narrowly whether large portions of the Burdwan Division and the Maunbhoom district may require to be brought within this category. Some relief mesures will no doubt be necessary in these tracts where there is a large labring population, many of whom may be without employment as soon as the ric harvest is over.

3. The policy indicated by the Government of India is briefly as follows:—

FIRSTLY.—Government will look to the natural operations of trade to import the food required to fill the deficit in the local supply in the districts where the crop has failed. By way of facilitating this traffic, the Government has reduced by one-half the railway grain rates, and has also ordered the temporary abolition of all road toll-bars, or tolls on ferries which can in dry weather be crossed by a ford or a causeway. The tolls on ferries where boats must be used to ferry carts across are to be reduced to the lowest tariff that will remunerate the boatmen. Further, the Government has put a steamer and flats to ply on the Ganges from Kooshteah to Rajshahye, and has ordered a small light draught steamer with flats to ply on the inland waters of Rajshahye. All that local officers have to do is to see that neither at ferries, nor at railway stations, nor at ghâts, nor on rivers, are any unauthorized difficulties placed in the way of, or dues levied upon, the transport of grain, and that the roads are put in order, and every facility given for traffic.

4. In places likely to be in want where there may not be traders of sufficient means and in sufficient numbers to import food to fill the deficit in the food supplies, or where for any reason the natural flow of trade is slow and difficult, the Government is ready to aid and promote the natural trade of the country by making advances of money, either—

(*a*) To zemindars, planters, or others under paragraph 26 of the Government of India resolution of the 7th November 1873, on condition that they will import grain from a distance and sell it as near as possible at cost price, all expenses included.

(*b*) To traders and others of a safe and responsible character, who will take the money at a moderate interest of 6 per cent. per annum, and will engage to import grain from a distance without any conditions as to the rate or manner of their selling it.

The Lieutenant-Governor delegates to district officers in the distressed districts the power of making such advances, where necessary, up to a limit of Rs. 2,000 to any one person; and to Commissioners in those districts the power of sanctioning advances up to a limit of Rs. 10,000 to any one person. Larger advances may be specially sanctioned, or a larger discretion may be allowed on a representation of the circumstances.

In the former class of advances an undertaking must be taken from the person receiving the advance that he will sell the food purchased to his distressed neighbours as nearly as possible at cost price, and that he will repay the advance without interest before the 31st December 1874, or will produce full and complete accounts to show why Government should forego any portion of the repayment.

In the latter class of advances it will be necessary merely to stipulate that the supplies will be drawn from districts beyond those to which the scarcity extends, and for repayment of the principal and interest by the end of 1874 or any earlier date that may be arranged. It will also be desirable to stipulate for the occasional inspection of the grain invoices (chalans) of such dealers in order to verify that they really do import their grain from a distance.

The Lieutenant-Governor has full confidence that district officers will know what persons can be trusted to act fairly by Government and by the people in respect of advances of these kinds. In regard to all advances for grain, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it essential that it should be a distinct stipulation that the purchases should be made and the grain imported at a very early date to be specified, so that the means of carriage now existing may be utilised to the utmost. If the purchasers are allowed to delay, and the despatches do not come till February or March, all the difficulty which the Lieutenant-Governor apprehends from a block of carriage will probably arise and the advances will do very little good.

5. SECONDLY.—Government recognises that many of the labouring classes, and of all those people who have neither money nor credit, will

as soon as the reaping of the rice crop and sowing of the cold weather crops have been completed or abandoned, and before the prospects of the spring crops have declared themselves, be unable to earn money or wages. Such people will probably before very long come upon relief works, if only we have a sufficient number of works spread over the country to give them labour near their homes as soon as they are ready to take it. The Government undertakes the relief of distress in this form, either directly by public works, or indirectly by advancing money to responsible persons who will undertake beneficial local and private works.

6. Already there have been begun in the distressed districts—

(*a*)—The two new branches of the Soane Canal in Shahabad, while the old branches already in progress are being carried on in Patna and Gya.

(*b*)—The Gunduk embankment in Sarun and Chumparun.

(*c*)—The earthen embankments of the Northern Bengal Railway in the Rajshahye, Bograh, Dinagepore, and Rungpore districts.

These three are works for which the Government of India will provide or advance the funds.

Farther, the Lieutenant-Governor at his recent interviews with the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye, has sanctioned the immediate commencement of work at as many points as possible, on

(*d*)—The series of North Ganges emigration roads which are to lead from Sarun, Tirhoot, Monghyr, and Bhaugulpore, through the Purneah, Maldah, and Dinagepore districts, to Rungpore, Bograh, and the Berhampooter; and thence to Assam, Cachar, and other eastern districts beyond the Berhampooter which are in want of labor.

(*e*)—A variety of local roads in the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions which the Lieutenant-Governor approved in conference with the local officers.

(*f*)—Local roads in the Rajshahye division which the Lieutenant-Governor has authorized the Commissioner and Mr. Robinson to commence at once at their discretion, according to the necessity of the case.

Work has been already commenced in the Burdwan division on

(*g*)—The new cut from the Damoodah into the Kana Nuddee, by which it is hoped to procure a supply of water for the present season, as well as to make a great permanent improvement.

The Lieutenant-Governor has moreover given directions to prosecute.—

(*h*)—Road fund roads generally throughout the country which the local authorities have been desired to press on wherever they are wanted for the purpose of giving employment to people thrown out of work. The Lieutenant-Governor has promised that in such cases, whenever the works get beyond the means of the local funds, aid will freely be given.

7. Further details of the works to be undertaken will be settled as soon as possible.

The general statements of relief works which have been already prepared in compliance with the orders of Government contained in Circular No. 27, dated 19th June 1872, are being printed for circulation; and by a selection from, and, if necessary, addition to these, it may be hoped that sufficient employment will be everywhere provided.

8. In regard to the preparation for, and commencement of, relief works wherever they are required, it may be well to repeat here the orders passed by the Lieutenant-Governor in his note on Patna affairs, dated the 29th October, to the following effect:—

"In this view I have told the district officers that they should lose no time in commencing ordinary earthwork on roads, &c., at as many places as possible. I am glad to find that their attention has been already given to the point, and

they have generally work of some kind ready which can be advantageously undertaken without delay. This they will do, giving the ordinary wages of the country. And by the aid of their general information, and the index afforded by the works in hand, they will judge of the necessity for more extended works and for food relief in each part of the country. I have told them that as soon as the demand for labor exceeds the resources of their local funds, money for works, where relief is necessary, will be supplied without stint. The great thing is that they should prepare beforehand, and peg out (by a centre line only) roads and other works on which relief labor may be expended to the permanent advantage of the country.

"The Commissioner will occupy himself in settling the works in the various districts that may best be undertaken. I have authorized the entertainment of special men for the design and superintendence of works."

9. His Excellency the Viceroy has been good enough to promise for temporary employment in Bengal and Behar as many Engineers and competent young military officers as can be spared. These young officers will be available for directing relief works in the distressed districts. Meantime the local officers should, as far as possible, peg out the lines of road and set them going. The simple forms of account in which the district road fund works are kept will suffice for the relief works.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish to receive from the Commissioner, as soon as they can be sent, lists of the local relief works commenced or proposed in each distressed district, with memoranda of (*a*) the additional establishment to be entertained upon relief works, and (*b*) the probable monthly expenditure upon the works, supposing the people to flock freely to them. After the list has been sent the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have, in the weekly narrative described below, an account of the relief works *prepared* and *actually begun* in each district. Simple forms of return showing the operations at each relief work will shortly be circulated, as was done in 1868.

11. THIRDLY.—The Government recognises that, if it collects large bodies of people together on relief works, it must provide food for them; that if the ordinary traders do not supply sufficient food close at hand, the Government must either pay the laborers partly in grain, or provide food for them to buy. We must not throw the support of a large body of laborers upon an impoverished tract where the food supplies barely suffice for the ordinary population. In fulfilment of this obligation the Government and its officers are laying in supplies of rice and other grain, which will be forwarded as soon as possible to places of storage near relief works in the distressed districts.

The restriction placed on Government officers in obtaining these supplies is, *first*, that they should, as far as possible, operate through the trade; *secondly*, that they must get grain for such storage from a distance; and, *thirdly*, that they must not store grain except at centres of relief works where the local supply cannot be depended on to suffice for the wants of the laborers.

12. As long as local supplies are pretty cheap and plentiful, it will be best to establish and house close to each relief work dealers who will sell on their own account with or without advances. When the local rates for grain come to something like famine rates, fall below say ten seers per rupee, the Government must supply food. It would then be advisable to hire bunneahs or weighmen to sell on Government account next door to the works. It is certainly, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, better to pay the laborers in cash, and to let them buy what they want next door, rather than actually pay their wages in grain. Colonel Baird Smith, in his report on the famine of 1861, truly points out that much inconvenience may be caused by paying wages in kind to laborers who are driven to barter at a disadvantage their grain for salt, pepper, earthen pots, and such other necessaries as they are obliged to procure. It is a very simple operation to give each man the pice he has earned, and let him take as much or as little as he likes in grain at the Government store close by.

13. The first thing to be done in regard to storing grain by the local officers is to select places and sites for store-houses at relief works; to hire or construct temporary storage-houses; to determine to what railway or river-side stations Government grain should be consigned from Calcutta or elsewhere; and above all, to ascertain and arrange the means of transporting the grain from those stations to the works. Local officers should notify to Government as soon as possible the places selected for railway and river stations to which Government grain for relief works should be consigned, the points chosen for storage, the steps taken to prepare store-houses, and the arrangements for carriage which they make or have in view.

14. When Government grain has been delivered at stations on the railway or rivers, this question of transporting the grain to the places where it is to be used will remain the most important and difficult of all. The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that Commissioners and district officers in the distressed districts are considering this question, and he would wish to have an early and most careful report upon—

(*a*) The means of transport from the nearest railway or river-side station to the centres of relief works or distress; whether the communications are liable to interruption from the weather or any other cause; and in what way the means of transport could be increased, if necessary.

(*b*) The roadside stations and other places where fodder for cattle should be collected to aid transport.

15. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot too much repeat that very special attention is necessary to the need for testing and perfecting our transporting agency and appliances at as early a date as possible. He desires to point out how very much easier transport will be during the next two or three months, when roads are not choked up and fodder is abundant, than in the hot season when there may be a rush and a panic, when the weather will be unfavorable, when forage will be very scarce, and when cattle will be dying. Sir George Campbell's great wish is to see all possible means of carriage, to places where grain will be wanted, fully utilised and drawn together from all available sources at once, so that Government may be in the best position when emergency comes. So far as the common weal is concerned, it comes to much the same whether the transporting agency is used by private persons or by public officers. If the private traffic is quite fully using and drawing together all possible means of carriage, well and good; we need not seek to interfere with such a traffic. If not, the Government officers will have to promote the transport of grain to places where it will be wanted both by advances for importation, and by importing for relief works. In some way we should attract and use fully all possible means of carriage to the distressed tracts.

16. FOURTHLY.—The Government cannot avoid facing the probability that eventually, if events turn out unfavorably, it may become necessary in many places to distribute charitable relief to the old, to children, to persons in reduced health, and to others who may be unable to do a full day's work. This must be done as soon as the necessity really arises. This business of gratuitous relief will be entrusted to relief committees in each district or sub-division, or part of a sub-division.

17. His Excellency the Viceroy, after consulting the Lieutenant-Governor and his officers, has decided that the appointment of relief committees for the purpose is, speaking generally, not, so far as we can see, necessary at present. But a discretion is left to local officers to start committees and begin relief arrangements in any tracts where such a measure may at any time prove emergently and clearly necessary.

When it is evident that such relief must be given in any district, the Magistrate will call a meeting of Native and European gentlemen who may be willing to serve on relief committees; he will nominate branch committees under the sub-divisional officers or other fit persons; he will raise such private

subscriptions as he can obtain; and will report his action to Government and to the Commissioner. The Government will at once make to every relief committee a grant equal to the amount of its private subscriptions, and may, when distress goes very far, be still more liberal. If a relief committee requires grain for its relief houses, before it can import for itself, the Magistrate will have authority to advance all the grain he can spare from the Government stores collected for laborers on relief works.

A collection of the orders of Government issued in previous years of distress, regarding the time and manner of relief, with forms in which accounts should be kept and rendered, have been compiled, and will be digested and circulated in continuation of the present orders, with instructions applicable to the present time.

18. Meantime, though as regards charitable relief we are not to commence active operations, it is most necessary to prepare all the necessary machinery for establishing relief houses and for giving such relief (short only of collecting grain specially for the purpose), so that we may be fully prepared if the necessity arrives. His Excellency the Viceroy specially dwells on the need for doing this at once.

District officers in distressed tracts will accordingly consider immediately and carefully report at what places relief committees may eventually have to be appointed; they will have to prepare beforehand lists of gentlemen who will serve on those committees. They must especially mark out the places and sites at which the necessary sheds, godowns, and other accommodation for relief-houses will be required if the scarcity should unhappily merge into famine. Each district and sub-divisional officer should prepare, and have by him for future use, a map of his district or sub-division showing the proposed sites for relief centres. They should provide for three grades of famine, thus—for comparatively mild famine there would be a few relief centres at large places or in specially impoverished tracts; if distress becomes keener, places of relief will have to be more numerous; and if unhappily the very worst comes over large tracts, the number of relief centres will have to be largely increased so as to be within reach of all. The sites for relief stations for each grade of distress should be distinguished on the district officer's map by a different mark. These sites, it should be borne in mind, must be selected after careful local inquiry and then entered on the map; they must not merely be marked on a map without knowledge of the ground. Complete plans should be drawn out showing the establishment and arrangements that will be required at each relief-house as it is opened, and as far as possible men should be selected, and all that can be thought of by way of anticipation should be planned out so as to be ready to begin effectively the moment the necessity arrives.

19. FIFTHLY.—The Government wishes to enlist municipalities, landholders, and others, in the work of providing labor in the distressed districts. A credit of ten lakhs of rupees has been made to the Bengal Government from which minor loans of this kind can be granted for these objects. Larger loans will be referred to and speedily disposed of by the Government of India. Municipal bodies cannot, as the law stands, spend municipal money on poor-houses or on relieving the necessity of their poor. But if any municipality in the distressed districts has ready any scheme for drainage, embankment, or water-supply, or for opening out new streets and roads, such as will give labor to unskilled workmen, the Lieutenant-Governor will be very ready to consider any proposal for making a loan to such municipality under the Local Public Works Loans Act. Chairmen of municipalities must bear in mind the several heads of information required regarding applications for such loans, as set forth in the rules published at page 1218 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 29th October 1873. Already the Lieutenant-Governor has granted a large sum from provincial funds over and above the original grant towards the Burdwan city water-works scheme. The Dacca water-works scheme and the Gheor Canal loan in the same district will, it is hoped, be very shortly sanctioned. The Chuprah city embankment scheme is a type of the work that might usefully be kept in hand on the present occasion.

20. Where no schemes for works of this kind are ready or are required, then the Lieutenant-Governor suggests that many municipalities and townships should take advantage of the drought and abundance of labour to cleanse, deepen, and otherwise improve the public tanks, wells, or other sources of public water-supply within their boundaries. For such an object loans could be granted, and the labour so afforded could be of the very best kind for relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor is considering whether in any points the ordinary rules can be relaxed, and orders on the subject will, if necessary, be issued.

21. As yet the system of advances for improvements on the land (what are called in other parts of India tuccavee advances,) has not obtained much in Bengal. Recently the Lieutenant-Governor has received a report from Maunbhoom that zemindars and villagers in that district had already drawn out in small sums some Rs. 5,000 for tuccavee advances, and that more money was wanted. Reports from Bancoorah, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, and other districts, also say that the ryots and villagers generally have had the need for water-storage brought home to them very keenly this year, and that they are anxious to prosecute and extend petty works of this kind during the present year. In the Burdwan and Hooghly districts the need of arrangements for the storage of good water and the drawing off of bad water has long been recognized both by Government and the people.

22. The Lieutenant-Governor particularly wishes that all such works should be promoted, and that land-holders and villagers should be encouraged to take out Government loans therefor, especially in the districts of the Burdwan Division. The rules for making agricultural advances were published at page 826 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 9th July 1873. Some Bengal officers have pointed out that the rules are cumbrous, and require too much detailed supervision of works for practical enforcement at a season like the present. The Lieutenant-Governor intimates that, in accordance with the permission given him by the Government of India, he will shortly issue instructions showing how far the provisions of the rules quoted above may be relaxed.

23. The Government further promises that it will be ready to defray a portion, not more than one-third, of the cost of petty village works (executed with Government loans during the period ending in July 1874) which directly improve the drinking water-supply of the people, or are shown to be of direct advantage to the general public, in any of the distressed districts, or in any part of the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. The full loan will stand against the borrower in the Government books until the work is done; when it shall have been reported upon by Government officers, found to be good, and to contribute directly to the water-supply or general well-being of any village or tract, the Government will write off a sum not exceeding one-third of the loan as the Government share of the outlay.

24. It will be for district and sub-divisional officers to make known as far as possible the readiness of Government to grant these loans on favorable terms for village works and land improvements. They are at the same time reminded that under Rule 19, page 828 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 9th July 1873, the Commissioner and the district officers have authority to sanction such loans with reference to superior authority up to a limit of Rs. 500 and Rs. 5,000 respectively. If the Commissioner of any distressed division can point out any particulars in which the Tuccavee Loan Rules (above cited) may at the present juncture be advantageously relaxed, the Lieutenant-Governor will be most ready to consider any recommendation in that regard. The Commissioner of Burdwan has been already asked to prepare suggestions on the subject. Sir George Campbell's belief is that in some districts (especially those where the ground undulates, like Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, and Gya), the people will be glad to take tuccavee loans if only the intentions of Government are known to them, and if responsible Government officers give them the money promptly in full, and do not let it filter through a number of subordinate officials with many delays and difficulties.

25. Meantime, for advances for works of the kinds described in the foregoing paragraphs 19 to 24 the Lieutenant-Governor has assigned a credit of—

Three lakhs to the	Patna	Division.
Two „	Bhagulpore	„
Two „	Rajshahye	„
Three „	Burdwan	„
One „	Chota Nagpore	„

Each Commissioner will notify to his district officers, and will report to Government, how much of the divisional grant he makes available for each district of the division.

For the purchase of grain for relief works and advances to private persons for the purchase of grain, under the instructions conveyed in paragraph 4, a liberal credit has already been given to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhagulpore, and Rajshahye.

26. In regard to the promotion of emigration to the tea districts or to other parts of the country where population may be sparse (paragraph 30 of the Government of India Resolution, dated 7th November), the Lieutenant-Governor will issue instructions hereafter.

27. The Lieutenant-Governor does not wish to burden divisional and district officers with the obligation of furnishing more reports and returns than can possibly be helped. He is glad to know that officers will do their very best, whether they are called upon to report or not. But still the Lieutenant-Governor, the Government of India, and the public, must be kept informed as far as possible of what is being done, of what money is being spent, and of the state of the country generally. I am accordingly to request that a weekly narrative may be sent from each district on Mondays, bringing the account of affairs all over the district down to the latest information known at the head-quarter station on that day. The writing of this narrative had better be entrusted to one of the best officers at head-quarters, but of course the Magistrate, if he is present, will add or insert such remarks as he may see fit, and the narrative will give his views and be written in his behalf. A copy of such narrative should be sent to the Commissioner, unless he is on the spot and sees fit to dispense with its transmission. For the present a temporary clerk on Rs. 60 a month may be added to the Magistrate-Collector's office of each distressed district, for the conduct of correspondence regarding the scarcity. Copies of each narrative will be sent to the Commissioner and Magistrate-Collector concerned, from the Bengal Secretariat, as soon as they are printed, so as to facilitate reference to previous reports, and to obviate repetition.

23. The heads on which the weekly narrative should touch are—

NARRATIVE OF SCARCITY AND RELIEF IN DISTRICT FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE

(A.) STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazaar.

Kind and price of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.

Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.

Rainfall, if any. State of the crops. Condition of the people. Actual facts as to any *known* cases of misery and starvation. Grain thefts or robberies. Condition of any special tracts.

(B.) RELIEF WORKS.

Progress in marking out or opening relief works, each work being specified; number of laborers thereon; supply of food thereat; condition of the laborers, mode of payment, and rate of wages; arrangements for tools, &c.

(C.) TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

Approximate account of private food supplies come into the district from outside during the week. Sufficiency or otherwise of means of transport. Steps taken to improve transport agency and appliances. Existence of a block at any station or point on transport routes. Working of any special transport trains or other agencies. Requirements in respect of transport, and arrangements for meeting them.

(D.) STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

Places of storage selected. Construction of storage-houses or golahs. Arrangements for their custody and administration. Amount of food-grain received. Amount sent out Return of empty bags. Sufficiency or otherwise of stocks for Government purpose. Fresh arrangements in progress for getting more grain.

(E.) ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES, AND THEIR RESULTS.

Advances for purchase and storage of grain, &c. Advances to municipalities for works, and description thereof. Advances to private parties for land improvements, and description thereof.

(F.) CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Actual relief operations commenced, if any.

Arrangements made in preparation of the machinery of charitable relief by way of precaution as above described (paragraph 18 above).

(G.) FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE WEEK.

Total expenditure from the district and sub-divisional treasury as shown in last narrative.

Detail of the above total:—

Expenditure during the week under report.

On disbursements to engineers or out officers in charge of—

Relief work .....
Relief work .....
Relief work .....
Relief work .....
Relief work .....
Relief work .....
Relief work .....

On purchase of food, particulars being stated.

On disbursements to officers in charge of transport arrangements.

Name transporting agent.

Payment on account of establishments at storage golahs.

On account of advances for purchase of food

Total of advances made during the week to trustworthy residents for purchase of grain.

To traders for purchase of grain.

To municipalities.

To zemindars and others for land improvements.

Total of the week's expenditure—

(*a*) Final payments made.
(*b*) Advances repayable.

Total

Grand Total to end of the week.

The first weekly narrative should be despatched on Monday, the 1st December, and show the expenditure up as nearly as possible to that date. Subsequent narratives would touch upon the facts only pertaining to the week under report. It will be observed that the narrative is merely for the information of Government, and is not to be a channel for asking sanction to additional establishments or expenditure of any kind.

28. Forms of accounts and register will shortly be forwarded for-

(1.) Relief work expenditure.
(2.) Food purchase expenditure.
(3.) Transport expenditure.
(4.) Grain storage expenditure.
(5.) Charitable relief or poor-house expenditure.

Commissioners of Divisions and special Relief Commissioners, wherever appointed, will have power to sanction the commencement of work on any roads or other relief work which has been approved by Government. In case of any sudden local emergency they may, when they deem it necessary, sanction commencement of work even though the particular work is not yet in the list of approved relief works; and an emergent discretion in such cases is also given to district officers, subject to weekly report of each sanction, to authorize the entertainment of—

Subordinate Engineering or Overseer establishments;
Grain transport and reception establishments;
Grain storage establishments;

provided that all appointments constituted under these orders are strictly temporary and subject to Government confirmation. In case any person is entertained on a salary exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem, an immediate report is to be made for sanction.

29. I am to sum up the instructions now conveyed, to which attention is specially drawn, thus :—

PARA. 2.—The "distressed districts," as Government now believes them to be, are defined.

PARA. 3 —Officers are enjoined to see that no removable obstacle remains in the way of private grain traffic.

PARA. 4.—Money advances to private parties under two separate sets of conditions are authorized to promote private importation of food to the distressed districts.

PARA. 8.—Local officers are desired to push on the preparation of relief works in as many parts as possible of the distressed districts.

PARA. 10.—Statements of extra establishments required for, and probable expenditure on relief works, are asked for from Commissioners.

PARAS. 11-12.—The views of Government as to storage of grain and its sale at relief works are stated.

PARA. 13.—Officers are directed at once to select sites, and to prepare storage for reception of Government grain.

PARA. 14.—Report is called for regarding the means of transport in the district and its improvement.

PARA. 15.—The need for early testing of transporting agency is enjoined.

PARA. 18.—Officers are directed to prepare plans of arrangements, and machinery for relief committees and relief centres, and to report through the Commissioner.

PARAS. 19-23.—Loans to municipalities and landholders and others for permanent improvements are to be promoted, and the terms on which these loans are obtainable should be made known to the people.

PARA. 25.—Grants are made to each division to cover their advances.

PARA. 25.—A weekly narrative is to be sent direct from Government from each distressed district.

PARA. 28.—Authority is given to Commissioner to sanction works, and to authorize, temporarily, establishments for grain storage, transport, and relief work, within certain limits, and subject to weekly report.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Appendix

~~Enclosure~~ E to *Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

Appendix E to the Bengal Government Special Narrative for the week ending on the 21st November, 1873.

NOTE ON OPERATIONS OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRESSED DISTRICTS.

SOUTH BEHAR.

THE work which was in progress on the Soane Canal before there was reason to fear that there would be a season of scarcity, was on the following branches:—

The Western Main Canal, 22 miles in length.

The Arrah branch, 63 miles in length.

The Eastern Main Canal, 8 miles in length.

The Patna branch, 80 miles in length.

Two distributaries had been commenced, but very little work done on them.

The weir at the head of the canal, the Western Main Canal, and the Arrah branch were in such a state that water could be admitted. Consequently as soon as intelligence was received of the want of rain, the Superintending Engineer was directed (on 24th September) to admit water, and to irrigate as well as he could without distributaries, and to make no charge for the water.

The water was admitted on the 3rd of October, and irrigation commenced from the Main Western Canal. On the 18th the Arrah branch was opened, and water reached the 20th mile on the 14th, and has subsequently been carried to the 30th mile.

Up to date about 69,000 acres have been irrigated from these canals.

On the eastern bank of the river, owing to the head sluices having been sanctioned a year later than on the western bank, work was not so far advanced, and it was only on the 15th November that it was possible to pass a small quantity of water into the channel through the lock.

Two of the distributaries, the Seanwunk and the Beheea, had been laid out and commenced; only very little work had been done, but by massing labor on them they have been pushed on, and used most satisfactorily for the distribution of the water.

All drainage channels and water courses were also utilized.

To give work for the people, it has now been decided to widen to 100 feet the portions of the Main Western and Main Eastern Canals, which had only been dug to the full required width of 60 feet, and to push on the—

Buxar branch	...	...	...	45 miles.
Doomraon branch	...	...	...	40 „
Beheea „	...	...	...	30 „
Kunteya „	...	...	..	21 „

the designs for which were ready, and they are being lined out accordingly.

The Chowsa branch will also be put in hand shortly.

A map is attached showing the lines of canal, from which it will be seen that work will be provided by this means over a large extent of country in the three districts of Patna, Gya, and Shahabad.

Arrangements are also being made for importing grain to feed the work people. (I cannot give number of laborers this week, but have arranged to do so next week.)

NORTH BEHAR.

Arrangements are being made for commencing work on embanking the Gunduck River for 58 miles in length in the Chumparun district and for 95 miles in the Tirhoot and Sarun districts.

HOOGHLY DISTRICT.

The Collector and Commissioner reported that it was advisable to open the head of the Kana Nuddi, an old branch of the Damooda, which had been closed by embankments for the purpose of supplying water for drinking and irrigating the winter crops. This has accordingly been commenced, and 1,268 men are now employed on the work; the workmen are, however, of the ordinary laloring classes. The Collector estimates that this work may, if promptly completed, save 1,00,000 maunds of food-grain which would otherwise be lost. The whole cost of the work is estimated at Rs. 10,000.

MIDNAPORE.

Before the failure of the rains, about 15,000 acres had been irrigated from the canal in this district. When it was found that rain did not fall, a great demand for water arose, and 34,000 acres had been irrigated up to the 15th instant. Unfortunately the water in the river failed, the discharge being only 300 cubic feet per second instead of 1,000 cubic feet, which is the usual quantity at this time of the year. Otherwise much more would have been irrigated.

The completion of the distributaries of this canal and some embankments which are required will furnish work for those requiring relief.

ORISSA.

About 5,500 acres had been irrigated from the canals in this district before the rain failed.

A demand arose for water and the area was increased to about 7,500 acres, when heavy rain fell and stopped the demand.

There is much work for laborers in this district on two ranges of the canal which are in progress, and in completing embankments and distributaries, should any necessity arise for finding employment for them.

GENERAL.

Several other irrigation projects at present suspended are being examined with the view of commencing them, should the necessity become more urgent.

H. W. GULLIVER,

Offg. Chief Engineer.

The 20th November, 1873.

Appendix ~~Enclosure~~ F to *Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

No. 300, dated Fort William, the 11th November 1873.

From—Major J. G. Lindsay, R.E., Offg. Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal (State) Railway,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

I have the honor to submit, for the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a memorandum of the arrangements I propose making for carrying on the works of the Northern Bengal (State) Railway during the next few months.

NORTHERN BENGAL (STATE) RAILWAY.

MEMO. OF PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS.

I understand His Honor's instructions to be that every endeavor is to be made to have as much work as possible ready for the people to begin at as soon as they feel the want of it, and that the more the work is distributed the better it will be, so that the people need not have to travel long distances to get work.

No endeavors are to be made to attract laborers from the western or other districts, but the work is to be kept in reserve, as it were, until necessity arises. I propose at present to concentrate the Engineering staff between Sultanpore and Bagdogra, north of Durwanee, sending one Executive Engineer to look after the work on the Dhaparee road. I have detailed the Engineers along this length, and hope that by the 25th they will all be in their places and at work. I cannot expect the Rajpootana Engineers to be at Dinagepore before that date.

I have two offices of account at present in working order, and propose only to open one other at present. The Executive Engineer in charge of the work along the Dhapan road must have a separate office, but he will be so near Calcutta that I anticipate no difficulty in starting it. I have desired Mr. Luff, a 2nd grade Executive Engineer, to report on the present state of the bar at the Oorasagen river, and to suggest any possible means of keeping a channel open. He will do this before taking up his work on the Dhaparee and Nattore road. The Executive Engineers in charge of the two divisions between Sultanpore and Bagdogra have been instructed to mark out the side widths, and take over the land on the Railway as fast as possible. Two of the senior men have been detailed to report on and mark out feeder roads. Work will be extended north and south as the marking out of the line becomes completed. As to my own movements, I hope that all preliminary arrangements will be completed by the 19th, when I leave for Dinagepore, where my camp is or will be. I shall reach Dinagepore on the 22nd, and after meeting and giving verbal instructions to the Engineers who meet me there, I shall join the Commissioner and Mr. Robinson, who will be somewhere near, and again discuss the question of feeder roads.

My head-quarters during the season will be at or near Parbuttipore, on the 20th mile of the Dinagepore and Rungpore road.

I would advise the immediate construction of a temporary line of telegraph from a point opposite Kooshtea to Julpigooree, with a branch to Rungpore. I consider that, supposing the railing was to be constructed under ordinary circumstances, the telegraph should be made at once, as it leads to economy in construction and management. Now that communication with the centre of the famine-affected districts is of such paramount importance, the laying of the wire should be commenced without delay. I would suggest that the Telegraph Department should be requested to organize at once two construction parties, one to begin at Kooshtea, the wire, &c., being conveyed by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and the other at Dinagepore, the material going to Rajmehal and thence by carts to Dinagepore. Clerks, who will have work in the Executive Engineers' offices, can be specially engaged to work the instruments. We should require nine stations.

In order to facilitate the transport of grain to the famine districts, I think that attention should first be given to the roads from Caragola and Rajmehal to Dinagepore, and to the best means of communication from the Brahmapootra river to Nattore and Hillee. As regards the line from Rajmehal to Dinagepore, I would suggest that, besides making it as practicable as possible for wheeled traffic, a regular bullock-train service might be organized. It can be used in the first instance for the transport of telegraph wire and railway material, and, should an emergency arise, it can be used in conveying grain. Should it happily not be required for the latter purpose, the carts and cattle would be of use in the construction of the railway, and would be withdrawn for that purpose.

The Caragola and Dinagepore road would be of no use for the leading of railway material, but if it is necessary to send large quantities of grain along that line, one of the Carrying Companies, Bird and Co. for instance, would, I am sure, readily undertake to arrange a train.

The road should in the meantime be made practicable for cart traffic.

In addition to general approval of the arrangements above sketched out, I beg to request sanction to the formation at once of train services from—

Rajmehal to Dinagepore,
Dhaparree to Nattore,

and a temporary line of telegraph from Koostea to Julpigoree, with branches to Dinagepore and Rungpore. I would also ask for sanction to any improvements that can be made in the line of water-carriage from the Oorasagur to the Jaboona and Atrai rivers.

J. G. LINDSAY, *Major, R.E.*

Offg. Supdtg. Engineer, N. B. S. Railway.

The 11th November 1873.

R. S.

No. 3412.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO MAJOR LINDSAY, R.E.,

Superintending Engineer,

Northern Bengal (State) Railway.

Calcutta, the 13th November 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 300, dated 11th November, forwarding a memorandum of the steps you propose to take, and the measures you recommend for beginning the Northern Bengal Railway works in the distressed districts north of the Ganges.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts your statement of his views as correct, namely, that your engineers should "have as much work as possible ready for the people to begin at, as soon as they feel the want of it, and that the more the work is distributed the better it will be." To this statement of the wishes of Government, I am to add the suggestion (which fell from the lips of His Excellency the Viceroy at the meeting at Government House on the 10th current) that the railway works proper should be kept as much as possible for the able-bodied workmen who will labor by the piece; while on the feeder roads might be employed the people who are less able to do a full day's work, and who will have to be paid separate daily wages, either in money, or in grain, or in both.

3. Your plan of work seems in brief to be—

(*a*) That two executive divisions will be at once established, and work begun on a length of about seventy miles north of Sultanpore, the northerly border of the inundated (or jheel) country. The engineers are at once to mark out the side widths, and to take over the land from the two Deputy Collectors who have been told off for the duty of taking up the land. You will take care that where there is a crop on the ground it is allowed to ripen.

(*b*) That one executive engineer shall at once proceed to inspect the mouth of the Oorasagor river; and that he shall, if he sees his way to deepening the channel over the bar at reasonable expense, arrange for such deepening under your orders; and that he shall then take up the work of forming the railway bank along the line of the Dhapparee and Nattore road.

(*c*) That two of the senior of your executive engineers have been told off to survey, mark out, and report upon feeder roads, in consultation with Mr. W. LeF. Robinson and the civil officers.

(*d*) That you yourself hope to be at Dinagepore by the 22nd November, where you will meet Mr. Robinson, and decide upon the feeder roads to be at once begun in consultation with him; and that your own head-quarters will be throughout the season at or near Parbuteepore, half-way between Rungpore and Dinagepore.

The Lieutenant-Governor fully approves your scheme for prosecuting the work. He has asked the Government of India to give you a preliminary credit of three lakhs for railway works. Funds for feeder roads will be given to your engineers by Mr. Robinson, or, under his orders, from the district or famine grants. The Lieutenant-Governor presumes that before you leave Calcutta you will organise arrangements for getting up tools and other material from Calcutta. As you are aware, the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged to have a steamer and flats running between Kooshtea (or Goalundo) and the best landing places on the north bank of the Pudda; and also for a light draught steamer (the *Flame*) working with two small flats on the inland waters. These steamers will serve the requirements of your line as well as the grain trade which is expected to spring up.

4. The special arrangements which your note urges upon the very early attention of Government are—

(*a*). The immediate construction of a line of telegraph from a point opposite Kooshtea to Dhapparee, and from Dhapparee onwards to Julpigoree, with branches from Parbuteepore, both to Dinagepore and Rungpore. You recommend that the Electric Telegraph Department be moved to organise at once two parties—one to begin work opposite Kooshtea, and the other to begin at Dinagepore, carting their material from Rajmehal to Dinagepore.

(*b*). That the road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore should be at once put in order for wheeled traffic, and that a regular bullock train should be established thereon for the transport of railway material, telegraph material, and, if necessary, of grain.

(*c*). That the roads from Caragola and Rajmehal to Dinagepore should be made at once practicable for carts.

(*d*). That a bullock train service should be formed for the road from Dhapparee to Nattore.

(*e*). That express sanction be given to your incurring any reasonable expenditure for improving the lines of water communication.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor will at once ask the Government of India to *move the Telegraph Department to begin the line of telegraph in the way you propose. The telegraph officers will decide (and you are requested to consult with them on this point *before* you leave Calcutta) whether the line should not be led from Jagotee junction to a point opposite Dhapparee, along the line selected for the branch railway, and whether it will not be as expeditious and cheaper to make the line permanently on Hamilton's standard at once.

* *N B.*—Since this letter was written, His Excellency the Viceroy has given orders that the telegraph line shall be at once begun by two parties. C. B.

6. Mr. Robinson is already having the road to Dinagepore, from a point on the Ganges wherefrom communication with Rajmehal is easy, improved. The Lieutenant-Governor quite approves of a train of bullocks and carts being formed on this road. Mr. Robinson will arrange this in communication with yourself; the bullocks and carts of the distressed country should be employed as far as possible, and the Government of India will be asked to lend for the management of this service European and Native employés of the Post Office, who may have had experience on the Purneah and Darjeeling road. The accounts of expenditure on and earnings by this train will have to be kept distinct. It will probably be best to employ native carts of the country, and not to attempt to introduce heavy ammunition wagons or Post Office "cranchees" on the cutcha road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore.

7. The road from Rajmehal to Dinagepore is an important link in the Lieutenant-Governor's scheme of emigration roads from Behar to Doobree, and orders have already been given for putting it into order. The Commissioner of Rajshahye will be reminded of its importance. Mr. Robinson will also inquire and consider whether a road from Caragola to Dinagepore would have any superior advantages. A bullock train can be organised, in the same fashion

as on the Dinagepore road, from Dhapparee to Nattore; as this will be a short line, Mr. Robinson will perhaps be able to manage this through a native agency at Nattore. Its accounts should be kept distinct from the railway and relief work accounts. A paper charge should be made by these bullock trains for all work done for your department, or for the relief department, or for the Telegraph Department; such charges being supported by vouchers for the work done.

The Lieutenant-Governor has already (paragraph 3 above) intimated his approval of your expending a reasonable sum on improving the water routes on the Oorasagor, or on other inland waters which may serve your works.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3413.

COPY, with copy of Major Lindsay's letter and note, forwarded to the Commissioners of Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye, and to Mr. W. LeF. Robinson at Dinagepore. Attention is drawn specially to—

(1) The need for early works on the Dinagepore roads from Rajmehal and perhaps Caragola.

(2) The best steps to be taken for establishing a bullock train service on the Dinagepore and Nattore roads.

(3) The need for settling at early date with Major Lindsay on what feeder roads his engineers should first break ground.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 13th November 1873.

W. E. B.

Appendix

~~Enclosure~~ G to *Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOOD-SUPPLY.

We have arranged and announced to all the world that we are to buy grain for laborers on relief works, and if I have much urged that to the extent of the carriage now available and not used fully by the private trade, we should import and store on the spot for this purpose with the least possible delay.

I am afraid, however, that we may get into confusion through the operations of various local officers, and would therefore lay down as follows:—

1. When we say that the thing is to be done as much as possible through the trade, we mean, in the first instance, the trade of the division or district of the officer to whom the order is given. All officers should, to the utmost possible extent, operate through their own local traders, and arrange that these men should transport the grain to the spot where it is wanted, or the nearest point that can possibly be arranged. No direct Government transport should be undertaken that can be avoided. The local traders may get the supplies wherever they find best, provided only they come from a distance. I wish no restriction put on them. They will best know where to go and how to convey the grain. What is necessary is that in all contracts they should be bound down to early delivery. This last is essential.

2. When local officers are wholly unable to work through their local traders, they must not send orders to a distance at their discretion. We must systematize business of that kind. I think the sources of food-supply to which we must look may be roughly divided as follows:—

1. Calcutta and the neighbourhood.
2. Eastern Bengal.
3. North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces.

My present wish is that any special orders which the local traders cannot arrange for should be sent to these quarters, somewhat in the reverse order to that in which I have written them. Since we may trust to the Calcutta trade to do all that the demand renders profitable, and all considerable local traders in our districts have Calcutta connections, I should like the Behar officers to get their Government supplies as much as they can from the North-Western Provinces first and then from Eastern Bengal, and the Rajshahye officers from Eastern Bengal, before they indent on Calcutta.

3. To prevent clashing in the North-Western and Central Provinces, I have proposed that all purchases from thence (other than through our own local dealers) should be made through the Commissioner of Patna only (he supplying Bhaugulpore), and that a North-Western Provinces officer should be placed at his disposal, who will ascertain the kind of grain most available, the best place to buy, and will arrange with the North-Western Provinces dealers to send Chumparun. M. A. Colvin, C.S., Allahabad, has been nominated for the purposes.

4. I should like the Commissioner of Dacca to make a similar arrangement for Eastern Bengal, employing an officer for the purpose. Orders, which local dealers in Behar and Rajshahye cannot execute, might then be executed through him.

5. It must be clearly understood that Chittagong is not a large producing district, but a mere port of foreign export for Noakhally, Tipperah, and South Backergunge; therefore orders should, as a rule, not be sent to Chittagong. What we want is to draw rice *away* from Chittagong, not to draw it to Chittagong. If it once gets there, either it will be exported, or we shall have to pay exorbitant prices to get it back from the export firms.

6. When officers are unable to get supplies either from Western or from Eastern Bengal, they must indent on Calcutta. All such indents should be addressed to Mr. Toynbee, C.S., Bengal Office, who is now in charge of that department. To comply with them he will openly buy from the various firms, according as he can make the best bargain.

7. These rules will not be strictly obligatory on Court of Wards' officers, but I should like them to follow these lines as far as possible; especially as regards employing the local dealers first, if they possibly can.

8. In cases in which grain is got from a distance otherwise than through local dealers, the distant merchants will no doubt be unable to manage the local transport from the railway or river station to the works, and here will probably be the greatest difficulty. I think that direct Government arrangements should be avoided as much as possible, and effort should be made to get contractors, large or small, or even owners of carts to undertake the transport at contract rates. Certainly, I would avoid all attempt to put on the roads either carts or camels or anything else the property of Government till the whole of the indigenous carriage has been drawn out and used to the very utmost.

The 19th November, 1873. G. CAMPBELL.

Circular No. 88.

COPY forwarded to

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF,
The 20th November 1873.

Appendix [H] *to Special Narrative of the drought of* 1873, *from* 15*th November to* 21*st November* 1873.

No. 537, dated Bhaugulpore, the 16th November, 1873.

From—G. N. Barlow, Esq., c.s.i., Offg. Commissioner of the Bhaugulpore Division.
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to furnish extract from the Collector of Bhaugulpore's report No. 1430 of the 12th instant concerning the condition of the entire sub-division of Soopool and the western portion of the Muddehpoorah sub-division in this district. The report has been based upon the account received from the sub-divisional officers after personal inspection ordered by me during the first week of the present month.

2. The condition of the tracts above referred to which is revealed appears to me to be sufficiently grave to call for special action, and without waiting for the general report upon the entire division which I have under preparation, but which is delayed on account of pressure of business, I hasten to lay the matter before Government in the present report.

3. The bad condition of Soopool sub-division throughout has been admitted all along, and the fact was stated to the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of his visit here. It certainly now looks to me as if a state of actual famine was not very far distant from the people of Soopool and western Muddehpoora, and to guard against sudden emergency relief should be quickly afforded. I do not myself set much stress upon the view taken by the Collector at paragraph 22 of his report. Admitting that the people want food now, it is no use speaking about what they might do "if the coming crop turns out as well as it is expected, and the ryots are wise enough to keep back enough."

4. I am of opinion that the measures which I am authorized to take up to date for general relief purposes throughout the division, *i. e.*, extension of works and importation of grain within certain limits for payment of labor, are insufficient for the part of the country in question, and I urge upon Government the necessity of special action to meet the possible dangers of the case.

5. I cannot open works fast enough for a whole population, and as to the operations I am carrying on with the three lacs of rupees sanctioned for this division, I could not feed them if I would. I recommend that a lac of maunds of food be at once purchased and stored in the sub-division to be used as circumstances require. The grain should be placed about Soopool and Muddehpoora in the proportions of 80,000 maunds to 26,000, affording about twelve days' supply on emergency, the population of the whole of Soopool and one-third of Muddehpoora being as 5,66,000 to 1,30,00. If anything is to be done, it should be done at once, as I have this day received report of the bad condition of the only road which communicates with this tract some 40 to 60 miles from the railway at Bhaugulpore. I have ordered the road to be made traversable by temporary means, but the carriage of grain will be slow.

6. If my suggestion is adopted, the question as to disposal of the grain will immediately arise. I have said already I cannot find work for 5 or 6,00,000 persons if they were willing to work, and there is reason to believe that numbers of persons would rather suffer death than work. What I would suggest is the following: So long as the people get along, I would only give out grain in wages for work or charitable relief, if it becomes necessary to organize this last, on its becoming obvious that a portion of the people who want work are certainly starving. I would sell the grain at reasonably high prices to those who could buy; the residue must take their chance of relief. The high price of the grain would secure that the poor who can work shall not take advantage of the sale system to those in idleness, and the dislike of the better classes to accept pauper relief will be a sufficient

guarantee that those who have means left shall purchase rather than accept assistance at relief centres, though the country here is deplete by exportation. It does not not appear that there is any local import trade in this part, which we should be likely to interfere with.

Extract from the Collector of Bhaugulpore's Report No. 1430 of the 12th instant, concerning the condition of the entire Sub-Division of Soopole and the western portion of the Muddehpoorah Sub-Division.

SOOPOOL SUB-DIVISION.

PARA. 2. This sub-division consists of six pergunnahs, and part of one, comprising altogether about 1,275 square miles—

Kubkhund	about	150	square miles,	say	95,984	acres.
Ootarkhund	„	109	„	„	70,173	„
Mulhungopal	„	140	„	„	89,779	„
Narudigur	„	372	„	„	2,38,166	„
Dhaper	„	161	„	„	1,03,311	„
Nathpoor	„	276	„	„	1,76,969	„
And part of Nursingpoor Coorah	„	67	„	„	42,804	„
Total ..	„	1,275				

3. The total population of this sub-division is said to be 565,747, inhabiting 678 villages.

4. In the return submitted by the sub-divisional officer, it appears he has personally gone over portions of Nursingpoor Coorah, and Narudigur pergunnahs, and visited some 125 villages. The Sub-Deputy Collector, to whom under my orders tracts were allotted, has visited 66 villages in Kubkhund and Ooterkhund—38 in the former and 28 in the latter, while the Inspector has personally seen 103 villages in Dhuper and Haramut—52 and 51 villages respectively.

5. The Deputy Magistrate says, roughly speaking, he would estimate that 12-16ths of the whole area is devoted to foods-crops, 2-16ths probably fallow or waste, and 2-16ths to village sites, and such crops as mustard, linseed, jute, &c., though other food-growing crops are grown at times on these better lands.

6. As a rule, I put it down that of the 12-16ths thus described as being devoted to food-crops, no less than 10-16ths are *dhân* lands, either bhadoi or aghanee, and these two crops are grown, it is said, in the proportion of 5 to 11.

7. The bhadoi crop (rice) is reported to have been during the past season deficient, both in area and in yield, owing to the scanty rainfall.

8. The bhadoi *murwa*, which is generally a much grown crop, though more so in the Muddehpoorah sub-division, though originally reported as very good, is now reported as follows:—"The murwa crop looked a good one on the ground, but I hear from all sides that it yielded indifferently, and it was probably over the whole sub-division not more than 12 or 13 annas of *an average one*;" but what is considered an average one is not stated. From the return, however, furnished by the sub-divisional officer, the bhadoi crop, taking, I presume, the murwa and rice together, has not been a *very* bad one, for a 12-anna "average yield" reaped is reported from two pergunnahs, a 10-anna from 4, and an 8-anna from one.

9. This sub-division is undoubtedly a large rice-growing one, and it is sad to contemplate the figures furnished by the sub-divisional officer regarding the expected outturn of aghanee rice given as the proportion of an average crop; in no case throughout the sub-division does it exceeds two annas and oftener one, while in one pergunnah, Kubkhund, total failure is reported.

10. I have had the fortune to meet a planter of experience from these parts, and he confirms the worst expectations. He reports strongly on the great exportation of rice that has been and is still going on, "pyekars," as they are called in Soopool, coming from other districts and buying up whatever they can get; at the same time there is still a fair quantity of rice still in store, there being extensive stores as a rule in Beerpore, Baloona, Portabgunge, and Kundowli. This exportation it is impossible to prevent; but I must state deliberately no

time should be lost in getting grain (rice) into this portion of the district for distribution when the time arrives.

This could be done either direct from Bhaugulpore itself, the grain to be landed at the Sonebursa ghât north side of the Ganges, or at or near Khugeriah in the Monghyr district; this latter would ensure the shorter land route.

11. There are several planters and zemindars in this sub-division on whose assistance we might I hope rely.

12. The entries under the head of proportion of rubbee crop expected shows a bad state of things; but the rubbee crop is not only little sown in this sub-division, but it nearly always is very poor. Unless under very favorable circumstances, the country is not a rubbee-growing one, and moisture is absolutely necessary, the land now being perfectly dry; all tanks and rivers are as low as they are in March.

13. The sub-divisional officer has suggested that Government should endeavour to buy up and send for distribution to the ryots for sowing about a 1,000 maunds of "cheena," as the crop (which by the way is a very uncommon one in Soopool) might be the means of alleviating a good deal of distress; but I think it would be difficult to procure this quantity, and under any circumstances this is surely a matter in which the ryots can help themselves or the zemindars help the ryots, anyhow. I however, if you think the suggestion a good one, will do my best to procure the seed and send it to Soopool. I have corrected the sub-divisional officer's figures in column 3 where necessary.

14. I now come to Muddehpoorah sub-division, comprising 872 square miles. It has part of one pergunnah and part of another :—

Part of Nursingpoor Coorah about 630 square miles, say acres 4,03,000
" of Chye " 242 " " " 1,54,994

15. The total population is said to be 3,91,086, inhabiting 375 villages.

16. In the return submitted by the sub-divisional officer he has visited 64 villages in pergunnah Nursingpoor Coorah, and the Inspector 73 villages in pergunnah Chye.

17. The chief staple grown for food is rice, but little else used excepting *murwa*, pulses being used in the proportion of 1 to 16. There are two rice crops—the bhadoi and aughani, the latter being by far the larger crop.

18. The bhadoi this year, taking murwa and rice together, has been an 11-anna one.

19. The total anticipated rice (aughani) crop is 6 annas in Nursingpore Coorah and 12 annas in Chye, or a total average of 9 annas. I think the Chye average will really prove to be under-estimated, for I have seen persons who report most favorably; and I have just heard from the District Engineer that the crops from Phooloot to Kishengunge are magnificent.

20. The rubbee crops which are expected are 3 annas in Nursingpoor Coorah, and uncertain in Chye; but I do not see why that should not amount to at least 4 annas, from what I know of the nature of the country.

21. The sub-divisional officer reports from personal observation that the people in the east seem pretty contented, seeming to fear no immediate scarcity, while in the central they are looking forward anxiously to the months of *March and April*; in the *west* the ryots are already *hopeless*, saying they cannot get food for their money.

22. If the coming crop turn out as well it is expected, and the ryots are wise enough to keep back enough, there will be but little fear of anything approaching to famine; on *great* scarcity the people in the west of the sub-division will find employment if they want it, though it is apparently food more than money they require. I have had a long interview with Baboo Hurbullal Narain Sing, who confirms the statement that it is *food*, and not money, that is required, and he speaks of the holding back of the grain now stored to no inconsiderable extent by two or three persons. Generally speaking, there are no mahajuns or any store of rice in this portion of the sub-division; rice must, I think, be despatched to one or two places to see the result, but the Baboo, whose opinion is worth something, assures me "beyond any doubt the people of that part of the country will sooner die than have anything to do with either digging or throwing mud on a road."

A. St. L. B.

No. 1456, dated Bhaugulpore, the 15th November 1873.

From—V. T. Taylor, Esq., Collector of Bhaugulpore,

To—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

With reference to Circular No. 70, dated 13th October, I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. My return to the sudder station was delayed for a few days longer than I had intended, and some of the sub-divisional returns followed me, which has caused a few days' delay.

3. The district may be divided into two portions, the one comprising the Soopole and Muddehpoorah sub-divisions north of the Ganges, and the other the sudder and Banka sub-divisions south of the Ganges; a portion of the sudder-sub-division, amounting to 247 square miles, is north of the Ganges.

4. (1) Mudehpoorah and Soopole together comprise 2,147 square miles (872 + 1,275), and of this large tract about 3-4ths is devoted to food-crops, 1-8th to village sites and crops, such as mustard, jute, &c., and 1-8th is probably fallow or waste.

5. (2) Both these sub-divisions export largely and chiefly to Tirhoot and Monghyr; exportations are now being carried on to a considerable extent. The only importation is from Nepal, and this only by mahajuns in the Soopole sub-division. Imported grain is however again exported.

6. (3) The main food-staples of the people of this tract are rice and murwa and a little wheat, and, roughly speaking, the proportion is 10 to 6.

7. (4) There are only two rice crops in this tract, called the "bhadoi" and "aghani." As the names explain, the former is reaped in *Bhadro* or Assin (August and September), the latter in *Aghan* or Pos (November and December). These crops are grown in the proportion of 4 annas of the former to 12 annas of the latter in the year.

8. (5*a*) The estimated outturn of the bhadoi rice in this tract may be put down at 4 (a quarter); this small outturn is partly attributable to the fact that owing to want of rain a much smaller area than *usual* was sown down.

(*a*) The murwa was on the whole good, and the outturn over the whole tract may be safely put down at 11 annas out of a 16-anna crop.

(*b*) As compared with a previous short year (1865-66), as directed in Circular No. 77 of the 13th instant, the bhadoi rice is said to be a much shorter crop, for when inquiries were set on foot in October 1865, a full report on the state of the crops from this tract was then submitted. The bhadoi rice was then reported as being a fair average crop, *the same as in other years*, while this year it at the most has proved a ¼ crop.

Murwa, on the other hand, has this year been a very fair year and an 11-anna crop has been reaped; whereas in 1865 this crop, "upon which the poorer classes it may be said depend almost entirely for their food, was nearly a total failure;" at the outside "not more than a 2-anna crop was gathered."

In October 1865 the aghani rice promised very fair, and I find it was then reported—"The crop is at present better than it was last year; but the prospects, I am informed, are not good owing to the early cessation of the rain. There is now about a 10-anna crop on the ground, but even this proportion, it is anticipated, will to some extent decrease before the crop is reaped."

The present aghani crop *over the whole* of this tract cannot possibly be anything like a 10-anna crop. The rice of the whole north and west cannot yield more than a 2-anna crop, though in the east and south an 8-anna crop may be hoped for; but it is impossible yet with any degree of accuracy to say what the real outturn will be.

9. (6) The prospects of the cold weather food-crops, or rubbee, in this tract are bad; but strictly speaking, but little of these food-crops are grown; a small quantity of wheat and barley and a little koosti are the chief of them; they are not consumed much in this tract, and the loss will not affect this portion of the district much.

10. (7) Under favorable circumstances from the middle of May to the middle of June, the first (or bhadoi) crop of rice will be sown, and the first week in August is the earliest period that the crop can be reaped. I don't think that the cultivation can be increased to any appreciable extent; the ryots themselves are only too glad to sow every available field, if weather permit of their doing so.

11. Before leaving this portion of the district, I would show the price-current of rice for the two periods 1865 and 1873, for October and November, standard weight. No price-current for murwa was given in 1865.

1865, October.

Rice, 1st sort,	12 seers	8 chittacks.	
„ 2nd „	13 „	12	„

November.

Rice, 1st sort,	10 seers	1½ chittacks.	
„ 2nd „	11 „	4	„

The prices then fell till May 1866, when they rose quickly, and in July 1866 the prices were—

Rice, 1st sort,	8 seers	4 chittacks.
„ 2nd „	8 „	11

The prices fell again in October and in December 1866 the prices were—

Rice, 1st sort,	21 seers	11 chittacks.	
„ 2nd „	22 „	15	„

October, 1873.

Rice, 1st sort,	13 seers.
„ 2nd „	18 „

November not received yet. Murwa *is selling* at 31 seers for the rupee.

12. The Sudder and Banka sub-divisions comprise together 2,100 square miles, of which 247 square miles are south of the Ganges, and may be briefly referred to separately. The whole of this tract is liable to inundation, and *no rice is even grown* upon it. A bhadoi crop, almost exclusively of Indian-corn, is sown, and annually gets swept away and destroyed. Under favorable circumstances, which seemingly very rarely occur, a beautiful crop would result, but the circumstances never turn up. This past year a 2-anna crop was the utmost reaped. The inundation subsiding, the soil of this tract is enriched and the rubbee is generally remarkably good. The chief crops are wheat, barley, and oats, gram and peas being also grown; but few oats have been sown *this* year, I hear, and there is no reason why the crops should not yield well. It is from this tract that nearly all the wheat exported comes. It is true some of the early sowings have been destroyed by caterpillars or grass-hoppers, but still a good crop is anticipated, and, with rain before the middle of January, a full crop may be perhaps looked for.

13. (1) Of the remaining portion of Bhaugulpore and the Banka sub-division, I would say that 3-4ths is cultivated, and of this 3-4ths, or 12-16ths, is cultivated with food-crops, and 4-16ths with crops other than food-crops, such as castor-oil, which is largely grown, mustard, linseed, oil-seed, and the like.

14. (2) As a rule, this tract is an exporting one. The Banka sub-divisional products are generally sent to Bhaugulpore, sometimes south, and from Bhaugulpore are taken away by "pykars" or "beparies," as they are called, who come from far and near. Imports are seldom made except in cases of necessity.

15. (3) The *chief* food of the people of Bhaugulpore sub-division is rice, Indian-corn and wheat, and in Banka, rice, Indian-corn, murwa, goondli, kodo, koorthi, wheat, cheena, and even mohowa *flowers* by the very poor are consumed. The proportion throughout the whole tract south of the Ganges may be roughly put down as 10 to 6.

16. (4) This tract only grows the aghani rice; the bhadoi is grown to so limited an extent as to be scarcely worth taking into consideration. The bhadoi rice here is of the kind called "sathi," 60-day rice, and is reaped in the early part of October. The anghani sowings and reapings are the same all over the district: the proportions of the two crops can be put down as 1-16th sathi to 15-16ths aghani.

17. (5) Indian-corn and "sathi" rice are the only two crops as yet reaped; the former is very largely cultivated, but I am afraid not more than a 6-anna crop has been gathered over the whole tract; the average of the better crops in Banka being lessened by the bad crops in Bhaugulpore owing to inundation.

18. (*a*) As compared these with an average year, the Banka Indian-corn crops may be an 8-anna one and the Bhaugulpore a four-anna one.

(*b*) As compared with the year 1865, it may be 2-3rds of it. I find it recorded that in 1865 the Indian-corn crop was "generally a good one."

It is difficult at present to estimate the outturn of aghani rice, but there cannot be any question that the crop is greatly inferior to the one of 1865; but the total Banka rice crop may be perhaps estimated at an 8-anna one.

19. (6) There are but few cold weather crops in the south of this district in any year, and what there are are of a poor class—koorthi, kodo, &c.; but as in Chye so within the inundated line of Bhaugulpore south of the Ganges, wheat and barley being largely grown. At present what is in the ground promises *very* well. It is true as large an area has not been sown as would have been had the rains not ceased so early, but I look for and at present anticipate a very good crop. The question as regards the degree to which people may be expected to derive support from these crops can only be answered thus, that this depends entirely upon the zemindars and the ryots whether the former will *insist upon taking the produce in lieu of rents* still unpaid by the ryots, which I think a most likely thing to come to pass, and what they will do with it when they get it. The crop, if good, will prove sufficient food for a *large* number of persons for a considerable time, but it is impossible to say into whose hands the outturn will fall.

20. (7) The earliest *rice*, as will be seen from the above remarks, will be, with the exception of the small quantity of "sathi," the regular aghani crop, but the Indian-corn crop will be put down at the earliest opportunity, and can be, under favorable circumstances, reaped in August and September.

21. I see from the old records that in October 1865 the prices of rice and Indian-corn were as follows:—

At Banka—

Rice, 10 seers for the rupee.
Indian-corn, 16 seers for the rupee.

At head-quarters they were—

Rice, 12 seers 8 chittacks per rupee.
Indian-corn } Not given.
Wheat. }

In October 1873—

Banka ... { Rice at 12½ seers per rupee.
Indian-corn, 20 seers per rupee.

Bhaugulpore ... { Rice is 10 seers, best kind.
Ordinary, 12½ seers.
Common, 13½ seers.
Indian-corn, 17½ seers.
Wheat, 13 seers per rupee.

D. E. J.

No. 23PS, dated Calcutta, the 18th November 1873.

From—C. BERNARD, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Statistical Dept.,

To—The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore.

I AM directed to reply as follows to your No. 537, dated 16th November 1873, in which you bring to notice the condition of Soopole and Western Mudheypoorah in the Bhaugulpore district, give your opinion that in those sub-divisions a state of actual famine is not very far distant, and suggest remedies.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that the statements of the Collector of Bhaugulpore, neither in his very careful reply to this office Circular No. 70, dated 13th October 1873, nor in the extracts from his letters submitted with your letter under reply, are such as to support the highly colored tone of your present letter, nor at all to suggest the probability of immediate severe famine. Indeed, the Collector's account of Mudheypoorah is better than the Lieutenant-Governor had expected, and even as regards Soopole, it appears that there has been some considerable yield from the bhadoi crop. Mr. Taylor distinctly states that rice is still being exported in considerable quantities from Soopole, and that murwa is actually selling exceedingly cheap in the north of his district, viz. at 31 seers to the rupee.

3. Under these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but think that it is to be regretted that you should have made suggestions which he is constrained to call far too wide and vague. I am to remind you that you have already received ample authority to open relief works to any amount if necessary to import grain for the labourers, and to make advances for private import. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that when you ask that something may be done at once because the roads are in a bad state, you merely propose what the authority already given to you amply enables you to do without further reference to superior authority. At any rate, there is every reason why you should at once proceed to put the roads in order, and arrange the means of transporting grain for relief works, as the Lieutenant-Governor believes that you are in fact energetically doing.

4. If it is still the case that, as Mr. Taylor states, export of grain is going on from the tracts where distress is apprehended, you should buy on the spot for your works so far as practically to stop further considerable export.

5. In regard to the immediate supply of grain to your division, I am to remind you that 19,000 maunds of rice is already under despatch on your account. In addition to this, as you have been informed by telegraph, 50,000 maunds will be sent by rail to you as soon as you intimate that you can receive and transport it. This should be arranged at once.

6. I am to invite your attention to the positive orders of the Government of India, that Government officers are not to import grain for supply of the general public, but to leave such operations to the trade. I am to repeat that in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion the report of the Collector of Bhaugulpore is very far from giving reason for making an exception to those orders in favour of that district.

7. You will already have received this office Circular No. 80 of 17th instant. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that you will carefully study the instructions contained in it and act upon those instructions fully. Specially you should be careful that in future all your reports and suggestions may be clearly and systematically arranged in accordance with the principles which the circular lays down. You will not fail to observe what full powers are given you for relief works and advances wherever they may become necessary. If you have any doubt or difficulty on any point you may refer it, but the reference must be specific. As regards charitable relief, you will see that in case of actual necessity you have power to commence operations in the manner pointed out.

D. E. J.

Scarcity & Relief.

Enclosure & Special Narrative.

24th November 1873.

Rainfall, Weather and State and Prospects of the Crops.

Statement showing Rainfall, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops in the different Districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 15th November 1873

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks
BENGAL.		1873.				
	Western Districts.					
BURDWAN DIVISION. 1	Burdwan	Nov. 18th*	Nil	Days hot, no rain has fallen except a slight shower in Cutwa	The last accounts of the prospects of the crops, except in Raneegunge and Boodbood, are more favorable, and prices show a downward tendency. Some rice is being exported.	Fever prevalent.
2	Bancoorah ..	„ 15th	Nil	Dry and not as cool as might be expected.	Rice crop as last week; those on low lands are fair and perhaps may give a six or eight-anna crop.	
3	Beerbooom ...	„ 15th	Nil	Bright and cold generally, temperature very variable.	No change since last return; harvest of the early rice in progress. Outturn of the district, calculated on the total produce of early and late rice, will probably be about eight annas. Export by rail during the fortnight ending 8th instant was 9,835 maunds, chiefly to the Bhaugulpore and Patna divisions. Prices falling where the new rice is coming into the market. Considerable store of grain existing in the district; there is no actual distress at present; the district and village roads affording sufficient employment for the laboring class. The scarcity in other districts and rapid export of grain from this may, however, bring about a necessity for relief works some months hence in aid of the mere laborers and cultivators whose crops have totally or in great measure failed.	
4	Midnapore ..	„ 15th	Nil	Fine and dry.	Unchanged. Prices are rising steadily, but not universally, as at Ghattal they have somewhat fallen.	
5	Hooghly ..	„ 15th	Nil	Clear throughout; wind from north-east.	Irrigation is continued wherever water remains. Some of the earlier crops have been reaped, yielding a two-anna crop. All the remainder, except what is irrigated, must die. It is getting too late to plough for the cold weather crops which have been planted only in patches.	
	Howrah	„ 15th	Nil	The nights cold, but the days still very hot; sky unclouded.	The crops on the high lands are being cut as straw and fodder. Much of it never began to form grain, and the rest contain only abortive grain. On other lands it is full of milk, and will come to grain whenever it can get water. Irrigated crops still doing well.	

* Telegram of the 18th November received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Central Districts	1873.				
PRESIDENCY DIVISION. 6	24-Pergunnahs	Nov. 18th	Nil	No rain. Days warm for the time of the year, nights cool.	The harvest of the late rice has commenced in the Diamond Harbour and Barripore sub-divisions. The Deputy Collector in charge of the latter sub-division reports that the loss will not be serious in thannah Jynogore and in most of the villages to the west of the Peali river. The prospects are however very bad on the east of the Peali. In Baraset sub-division the paddy is fast drying up on the high lands [illegible] is being cut for straw for thatching purposes. It is otherwise useless as the cattle will not touch it. In Basirhat a ten anna crop is expected in some of the Soonderbun lots The crops on the high lands have been destroyed, and the outturn in the low-lying lands will be very short No improvement in Satkhira, Barrackpore, and sudder sub-division. The outturn in Dum-Dum is estimated at four annas. Prices continue to have an upward tendency.	Fever prevalent at Alipore, and still continues at Barripore, Basirhat, and Satkhira. It has also appeared at Baraset.
7	Nuddea	" 15th	Nil	Clear sky, nights and early mornings cold.	No material changes in the prospects of the late rice since last report. From Kooshtea it is reported that the harvest has commenced, and that a ten-anna crop is expected on low lands and a three to six-anna on high lands. A large portion of the cold weather crops remains unsown; but where sown they have had the advantage of heavy dews the prospects of these crops appear to be somewhat more hopeful The price of rice has declined in the sudder sub-division.	
8	Jessore	" 15th	Nil	On the whole clear and dry. Cold in the mornings and evenings with heavy night dews. No rainfall at head-quarters or sub-divisional head-quarters. There were slight showers on the 8th instant in the Bytagheata station jurisdiction in Khoolnah sub-division. There were heavy showers about Torea and Degolia, south east of Narail, on the 4th instant	In Jhenidah sub-division the rice crop is expected to be an average or half crop. The high land rice in some places being cut for fodder. Prospects of winter crops bad for want of rain, and the crops are not expected to be more than half the average one In Magoorah also the high land rice is being cut; the yield of some fields is good and of some only half average Low land paddy promises well. The winter crops which have (partial) not had rain, are bad; those that have, are good In Narrail half or average of the paddy crop is expected, whereas the north-east of the sub-division the losses in upland rice have been greatest; the produce of the cold weather crop will be some compensation. In Khoolnah, rice prospects are reported bad worse than last week, and worst about Footala, Chandkhali, and Doomaria A ten-anna proportion of an average crop is expected In Bagirhat a ten-anna crop is expected, but prospects are not good Rampal Morrellgunge, and Mollahat enjoy better prospects than Bagirhat itself. In the sudder sub-division no improvement is reported, the high land crops suffer more and more for want of rain.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known	State and prospects of the crops at date	Remarks.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Central Districts.—(*Contd.*)	1873.				
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION. 9	Moorshedabad ...	Nov. 15th	Nil	No rain during the week. Hot and dry in the day, but rather cool at night. No appearance of rain.	Except in low lands and where irrigation has been resorted to, the late rice crops are entirely destroyed and are being cut for cattle. Winter crops are also suffering badly; much still remains unsown, while in the north the sowings have been destroyed in some places and seeds are being sown anew. Sugarcane, indigo, and teel (oil-seed) are doing fairly, but want rain. There is a slight fall in the price of rice at Jungipore and the sudder sub-division. The rain of last week has done much good to the crops of the area where it fell. A seven-anna rice crop is expected; with more it would be eight annas. Cold weather crops considerably benefited.	Small-pox has not yet entirely disappeared. Cases still reported.
10	Dinagepore .	„ 15th	Nil	No rain; north wind prevails, and clouds come up occasionally.	No change for the better.	
11	Maldah ..	„ 15th	Nil	Hot and dry. No sign of rain; nights cool.	There has been no rain and consequently no improvement in the state of the crops. Prices, however, are slightly more favorable owing to imports into the south and centre of the district from eastern districts. The cold weather crops within the influence of the Ganges promise a fair yield, provided there is rain before the end of November. The winter rice crop all round will not be more than a three or four-anna crop.	
12	Rajshahye ...	15th	Nil	There has been no rain throughout the district during the past week.	The prospects of the late crop have undergone no change for the better. Since last report absence of rain is telling on the cold weather crops, which are far from being in a flourishing condition. Winter rice on and near beels will yield a fair crop. In the north of Singra and throughout the rest of the district the rice crops have failed. The kalye pulse crop is promising. The winter rice is being cut in places already. The price of rice in Beauleah rose to 11 seers during the week, but lately it fell. The price of rice in the different parts of the districts ranges from 10 seers 10 chittacks to 14 seers to a rupee.	More cases of cholera reported from Charghat.
13	Rungpore ..	„ 15th	Nil	The weather continues fine, but there is no prospect of rain.	The state of the rice crop can hardly be worse; there is very little hope now of even a four-anna crop. The people are sowing wheat, potatoes, and two sorts of millet, "cheena" and "kaon," very extensively as well as mustard, but rain is sadly wanted for all these crops. The tobacco also is in want of rain; in fact the only crops which seem to be doing well are sugarcane and ginger. The people are already suffering from the scarcity in parts of the district. The price of rice all over the district varies from Rs. 3 to 5 a maund, the price rising and falling as rice is imported from other districts.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Central Districts.—(Contd.)	1873.				
RAJSHAHYE DIVN.—(*Contd.*) 14	Bograh ..	Nov. 15th	Nil	Still dry and no prospect of rain.	No improvement in the state of the late rice crops; the greater part of them are lost. Sugarcane and sesamum oilseed are doing well in parts. Fair yield of mulberry in Bograh thannah. Good is being done by irrigation in parts of the district.	
15	Pubna	" 17th	Nil	The cold weather has set in with chilly winds continually blowing from the north-west. There has been no rain at all, nor is there any prospect of rain.	The report as to the late rice crop is the same as that of last week. The prospects of the winter crops are still generally regarded as favorable, but they cannot be expected to continue so unless there is rain within ten or fifteen days.	
COOCH BEHAR DIVISION. 16	Darjeeling	" 15th	Nil	No rain throughout the district. In the hills mist and dark clouds, and very cold	Rice crop in certain places is in perfect condition, but unfortunately the area under cultivation is not large. At other places the crops look green and healthy, though many small patches of dried up paddy are seen here and there. A ten-anna, if not twelve-anna, crop may be expected. In no case the ryots anticipate any thing like serious difficulty. Fresh sowings of *turi*, tobacco, and huldee—turmeric—looked very well. Darjeeling will itself require some aid from without. Terai will be able to rely on its own crops, and perhaps help Darjeeling without reckless exportation.	
17	Julpigoree	" 15th	Nil	Atmosphere unusually clear; sun more powerful; dew less heavy.	Tobacco, teel (oil-seed), mustard, pulses, and other cold weather crops promising well. The tobacco crop is expected to be unusually good owing to the dry and hot weather. Rain would do great damage now. The prospect of rice is much the same as last report. The unusual dryness of the weather is causing some anxiety as regards the tobacco now being planted. The same cause is operating unfavorably on some paddy to the south which, with ordinary weather, would have come to ear notwithstanding want of rain, but which is being parched up. The Deputy Commissioner reports after personal inspection that in the Dooars there will not be distress among the people. Rain would be very beneficial in Boda and the south generally. Boda is the only part of the district for which some anxiety is felt. Prices slightly fell within the last few days. One bis of paddy (74 maunds) was sold last year at Rs. 4 by traders going up; now they ask for the same Rs. 5.	
	Cooch Behar ..	" 18th	Nil	No signs of rain ...	Prospects are unchanged. The late rice crop is expected to be a ten-anna one, but scarcity is not apprehended. The principal cold weather crop—tobacco—is doing well.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Eastern Districts.	1873.				
DACCA DIVISION 18	Dacca ...	Nov 18th*	Nil	Weather dry and cool, but not cold; heavy dews	Rice as before; cold weather crops germinating better than expected.	Cholera continues, and also fever at Manickgunge.
19	Furreedpore ..	„ 15th	Nil	Clear sunshine throughout the week. The cold weather appears to have set in.	No change in the rice crops since last week. Any rain after this date would do them harm, though the cold weather crops of pulses, oilseeds, &c., would be greatly benefited, the prolonged drought of seven weeks being very injurious to them. The price of rice is daily rising, and unless importations take place, will go up still higher; later in the season much distress, it is feared, will prevail, as the harvest all over the district will not exceed three-fifths of an average year, when even the grain produced is not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants, but is supplemented by imports from surrounding districts. The Deputy Collector sent to the west of the district to inquire into the state of the crops, writing from Syedpore, states that there will be a twelve-anna crop in that locality, and that the rice grown there does not suffice for consumption.	Four cases of cholera at Goalunda. All fatal.
20	Backergunge ..	„ 15th	Nil	Only two sub-divisional returns in reported from any where. Dry and cold weather.	No rain No improvement since last week. Lands liable to be submerged at high tides promise good crops as well as other low lands; not so high lands.	
21	Mymensing ..	„ 15th	Nil	Fine and dry	Nothing to add beyond the remarks that the prices have again risen at Jamalpore and Attea and in the portions bordering on the central districts. The rise is attributable to the demand for Rungpore, &c. Further inland in the Jamalpore sub-division the smaller markets barely maintained their rates, and excess supplies were carried back unsold, the rate of 20 seers per rupee for early rice not satisfying these traders.	
22	Sylhet .	„ 8th	0·38	A little rain on Saturday night, and a little more on Tuesday. The rainfall has been very general in the district and greater in the interior than at head-quarters; heavy and sufficient rainfall in several places.	The rain of last week has been most beneficial to the crops. A little more would bring up the outturn of the year to a pretty fair average crop. Certainly more than a twelve-anna crop. A Deputy Collector just returned from the interior reports that the crops near Chargola are acknowledged by the ryots to be as good as any they have had for some years. Another Deputy Collector, after a careful inspection of the crops in thannahs Latu, Hingajia, Rajnuggur, Nowakhali, Aladabad, and Nabigunge, hopes to see a thirteen-anna crop, if nothing untoward should occur. Pretty heavy rain has fallen in Tajpore, Rajnuggur, Nowakhali, and Hingajia, to be quite sufficient for the crops. Large exportations of rice have raised the price of rice. One or two merchants have received telegrams from Calcutta not to purchase any more rice as it is cheaper in Calcutta.	

* Telegram of the 18th November received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL —(*Contd.*)						
	Eastern Districts — (*Contd.*)	1873				
DACCA DIVN —(*Contd.*) 23	Cachar	Nov. 8th	0·75	Sultry ..	Prospects of crops much the same Loss by insects in about a third of the district is estimated at two annas An outturn of ten annas on the average crop or more may be expected The appearance of the rice crop on the road from Buddeipore to the sudder station a day or two ago was most promising.	
CHITTAGONG DIVISION. 24	Chittagong	„ 8th	A few drops on the 3rd instant.	There was a little rain about the 4th, but the fall seems to have been very partial Weather generally hot for the time of the year and at times cloudy and threatening Morning of the 8th cooler, bright, and fine, with north easterly wind	The reports are generally favorable except from Seetacoond and Meerka Serai, where insects are said to be still attacking the crops	
25	Noakhally	„ 8th	0·95	Weather hotter than in the previous week	In sixty-six villages within the limits of the Sudharam police, a little less than ten annas of the paddy is reported to have been destroyed by the "Mayoah" insect; within the limits of Bamni police station, about two-annas is reported to have been destroyed. In Ameergunge the crops are reported to be in a middling state. In Ramgunge the destruction has been three annas in nine, and two annas in five villages. In Lukhipore the crops are reported to have been attacked by the "Mayoah," but the proportion of the crop destroyed is not mentioned In Sundeep the late rice and kulai—pulse—are said to be progressing favorably, while four annas of the ("Rajashail" and "Posong") late rice are reported to have been destroyed by "Mayoah." Return from Begumgunge and Hatea not received.	
26	Tipperah	„ 15th	Nil	A marked change on last Monday, when the cold weather set in. The weather, however, does not seem settled yet.	Prospects are only so far better that the heat of the sun is somewhat less excessive. The late rice crop will be certainly a scanty one, but the early crop was a full one, and the only thing that is likely to cause distress is over exportation: merchants have been busy everywhere, but the call for rice is promptly met. A sudden demand in Comillah on the 26th October forced prices up to Rs. 3 a maund. On the 13th November the price was Rs. 1-12. This rice is the late rice of 1872, and it is believed that this year's early rice crop is still untouched.	
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts	„ 8th	0·4	Heavy dews in the morning up to 8 A.M.; cool at night.	The gathering of the paddy crop has been finished. The outturn has not been equal to that of the past year. The cotton is now being collected; the prospects up to date are good. The mustard crop is now being sown here and there. There seems no dread of scarcity, although the crops are on the whole not so good as usual.	

No	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Eastern Districts—(*Contd.*)	1873.				
CHITTAGONG DIVN.	Hill Tipperah	Nov. 8th	0·10	Same as last week; cloudy nearly every evening. Slight rain on Tuesday.	No alteration reported. The paddy on high lands has withered in most places, and the jooms in the hills are said to have suffered from want of rain. Insects have not appeared as was apprehended.	
BEHAR.						
PATNA DIVISION.	28 Patna	„ 17th*	Nil	Days hot; morning and evening cool.	Prospects of the paddy crops are getting worse day by day owing to continued drought. Cold weather sowings however are progressing favorably.	Health of the district good.
	29 Gya	„ 15th	Nil	Cool. No rain has fallen in any part of the district.	Prospects of the crops continue bad. The paddy has failed to a large extent. It is only in the low-lying places that it has been saved. In the north-western parts of the Jehanabad sub-division it is reported to be fair. The cold weather sowings have been to a large extent deferred for want of rain; where they have been sown the crops are suffering much for want of rain. Artificial irrigation is carried on wherever possible.	
	30 Shahabad	„ 15th	Nil	Slightly cloudy with east wind.	No change since last report. The cold weather crop is still being sown.	
	31 Tirhoot	„ 15th	Nil	Dry and cold.	In the Durbhanga sub-division the rice crop is lost beyond hope. The prospects of the cold weather crop are day by day becoming more gloomy. The land which was prepared for sowing the cold weather crops has been dried up and become unfit for a second sowing. In the Madhubani sub-division the prospects of a good cold weather crop are very small. A great deal of the land usually devoted to the cultivation thereof has been left unsown. The prospects of the rice crop there is by no means cheering. In the Hajeepore sub-division the rice crop is entirely lost for want of rain, and the cold weather crop is suffering from the same cause. In the Tajpore sub-division the cold weather crop has been benefited by the fall of a little rain in the south-west corner over some villages, but no good has been done to the rice crop which is materially injured and in some places is being cut for fodder. The cold weather crop in other parts of the sub-division is as bad as it can be, and there is still a four-anna of the same left to be sown, and if it rains within the month of Augran, followed by a favorable season, an eight-anna crop may be expected. The tobacco is very backward here. In the Setamarhee sub-division the kurthee and rahar pulses are doing well, and the sugarcane is being cut. The paddy here is being cut for cattle in all places except	

* Telegram of the 17th November received on the 18th. Shows rainfall during the seven days including the 17th instant.

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
					where irrigation is possible. The cold weather crop is sown in many places, but not to a very successful issue, and if rain does not fall within a short time there will remain but little hope for it. The prospects of the crop in the sudder sub-division are equally gloomy.	
PATNA DIVISION—(*Contd.*) 32	Sarun ..	Nov. 15th	Nil	No rain; hot days and cool nights; west wind prevailing.	Paddy on the high lands has withered and is being made use of as fodder for cattle, while what little has hitherto been kept alive on the low lands is still doing well. Rain is much wanted for the cold weather crop which has, however, fairly germinated in most parts of the district and would do well if rain fall. Rahur, pulse, cotton, and sugarcane, except in Sewan sub-division, are in good condition. The Collector has himself seen much of pergunnahs Kusmer and Mukair, and a portion of pergunnah Goa, and though the rice crop even in low lands had entirely failed, was surprised to find the cold weather crop looking so well. Many new wells were also being dug. These lands however (known as "koch" soil) are very retentive of moisture. Nevertheless even in "koch" lands without rain it is not probable that the crop will exceed six annas, while in bhangur or clay soil about half the district the crops will entirely fail without rain.	
33	Chumparan ...	" 15th	Nil	Cool. Weather cloudy now and then; west wind prevailing.	The prospect of the late rice crop is very gloomy. The outturn is estimated at two annas. About six annas of the cold weather crop lands have been sown and the remaining ten annas left uncultivated for want of moisture in the ground.	
BHAUGULPORE DIVISION. 34	Monghyr ..	" 15th	Nil	Very dry; wind changeable. Hot in the middle of the day; occasional small clouds.	Everything in *statu quo* as reported last week. The cattle are being turned into graze down the rice. The hopes of the cold weather crop diminish daily.	
35	Bhaugulpore ..	" 18th*	Nil	... ...	No improvement to report; prospect remains same as last week. The cold weather crops on dearah lands very promising. Prices standing.	General health remarkably good.
36	Purneah	" 15th	Nil	Cold and pleasant ...	The prospects of the crops continue the same as last week; rain would do no good for the late rice crop, but would be of great benefit for the cold weather crops which are now being sown.	
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs ..	" 15th	Nil	Weather fair. Days hot; nights somewhat cold; very little dew at nights.	No improvement since last report; there is still time for the cold weather crops, if rain would fall up to the 25th instant.	
ORISSA.						
ORISSA DIVISION. 38	Cuttack ...	" 18th†	Nil	Hot ..	Prospect of crops good ...	Public health good.
39	Pooree ...	" 8th	0·23	Fair ...	The Lughoo or second paddy crop is being reaped in certain pergunnahs; the late paddy crop is forming ears. The prospects of the cold weather crops are favorable. Khoordah sub-division.—In a few villages of Panchgur there will be a loss of four	

* Telegram of the 18th November received on the same day. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.
† Telegram of the 18th November received on the 18th. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
ORISSA.—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
ORISSA DIVN.—(*Contd.*)					to six-sixteenths of the late rice crop, which forms about two thirds of the whole, one-third heavy Laghoo or second rice which has been cut or which is being now cut shews an average outturn. A good shower of rain would improve the prospects of the late paddy throughout Khoordah, but even without rain at least a twelve-anna crop may be expected. The beali or Laghoo crops have turned out well everywhere. Cold weather crops promise well.	
40	Balasore ...	Nov 15th	Nil	As usual at the time of the year The cold weather has fairly commenced.	There has been no change in the state of the crops since last week. There will be some loss of crop in the northern part of Jellessore and Kamardah Chacklas and in the southern part (Soosli pergunnah) of the district, but on the whole the crop will be little less than an average one. At present there is some sowing of mustard, pulse, and castor seed.	
CHOTA NAGPORE						
	South-West Frontier Agency.					
41	Hazareebaugh	15th	Nil	No rain reported to have fallen in any part of the district; clouds hanging about	There is but little to add to last week's report in regard to the estimated outturn of the rice crop; the winter crop must necessarily be a short one in consequence of the drought and want of moisture to enable the full quantity of land being brought under cultivation.	
42	Lohardugga ...	" 15th	Nil	Warmer than usual at this season; clouds come at intervals, but soon pass away.	Prospects continue much the same. The rice crops to the west and south-west are pretty fair, but not so good to the south-east and east. The crop generally has been estimated to be rather more than two-thirds of an average year. In Palamow the prospects of the late rice crop are reported to be better than were at one time anticipated, particularly towards the south, where a ten-anna crop may be realized. Kurthi, pulse, and teel (oilseed), promise very well, and the reports in regard to the sergoojah crop are very favorable from all parts of the district. The great drawback is want of rain for the cold weather sowings. Only about four annas has been sown up to present time. Exportation of rice going on. Prices falling a little.	
43	Singbhoom .	8th	Nil	Dry. Hot during the day, but cool in the evening and morning. Heavy dew at night.	Dhalbhoom.—In all the tarafs it was expected that the outturn of rice would be an eight-anna and in some parts perhaps up to ten-anna. In most parts the crops looked very fair, but great deal of damage had been wrought by the continued drought. The grain was prevented from maturing. The earlier sort now being cut will give a fair return, but it is expected that the late sort will be almost entirely a failure except where irrigated. In many	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
CHOTA NAGPORE.—(*Contd.*)						
	South-West Frontier Agency.—(*Contd.*)	1873			tarafs the paddy on high lands has entirely dried up or withered beyond recovery, and in other places it was so bad as to be hardly worth the trouble of cuttings but on the other hand in low lands, where irrigation was resorted to, and in extensive beels, the yield will be a full one In taraf Purulia Boharagola the fields of 40 to 50 villages have been saved by damming up a khal for irrigation, the outturn of which will be a full one. In another place measures are being taken to divert the course of a khal to water some fields In taraf Porechatteo alone is absolute scarcity apprehended, the eastern portion having almost entirely failed. In the rest of the pergunnahs a full eight-anna crop expected In Seriakela eight to ten-anna outturn of paddy expected The rice crop in Porahat is very fair, heavy and extensive rain having fallen there in October. A good deal of upland crops entirely perished. Midland, very fair to view, but deficient in quantity The rest all very good. All cold weather crops have suffered for want of rain which is much wanted The yield is expected to be half. Several cold weather crops have not been sown for want of rain.	
44	Maunbhoom ..	Nov. 15th	Nil	Cloudy occasionally and warm, but no rain	The rice crops are now being cut, and some of the new rice is finding its way into the markets and is selling at from 16 to 20 seers per rupee It is too soon yet to be able to state what the outturn will be, as but little has been yet thrashed, rain would now do more harm than good to the uncut paddy, but is very much required for the cold weather crops which have and are suffering very much for want of rain, on which account also the sowings cannot be proceeded with, except where irrigation is practicable from tank and bunds	
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.						
45	Goalparah	.. 8th	Nil	Fair and bright, nights and mornings cool and dewy. No rain during the week, nor any sign of it.	The state and prospects of the late rice crop getting gradually worse, this week having also passed without rain. The rice on high lands is reported to have been almost all dried up, and is rather beyond recovery even if rain falls. The crop on low lands has also suffered greatly and is in danger Some showers of rain, want of which is the cry everywhere, may, however, benefit it to some extent, if it comes shortly. The rice in beels or very low lands and near water is in a pretty good state. The cultivation of mustard has been retarded to some extent on account	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	States and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS,—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
					of drought, and the seeds sown have not germinated The state of cotton and sugarcane is tolerably good. Pulse and other winter crops are doing well. The cutting of jute is nearly completed and the outturn is fair The price of rice has risen very much.	
46	Kamroop .	Nov 17th*	Nil	Mornings raw, misty, and cold. Days clear and hot. Nights cold and heavy dew.	Late rice and tea crops backward; cotton, sugarcane, mustard, and pulse thriving.	Public health good.
47	Durrung	" 8th	Nil	Bright days and nights daily range of temperatures high Little easterly breeze.	The entire absence of rain is ruining the rice crops in the southern half of the Mungledye sub-division and those on the high land generally throughout the district. Cold weather crops far below the average.	Fever prevalent.
48	Nowgong ..	" 8th	Nil	The weather has set in, now clear and fair, with cold, heavy dewy nights	The late rice crop is stunted and sickly-looking on the very high lands, but an average crop may be looked for The *bao* paddy doing well. The pulse crop will be an average one The sugarcane crop will be a bumper one. Mustard being sown in great quantities. Tea operations slackening.	General health of the district excellent
49	Seebsanger	" 8th	Nil	Days moderately hot, but nights and mornings cool and foggy. Few drops of rain on the morning of the 2nd and 7th instant.	There having been no rain since last report, the prospects of the rice crop have not improved. The paddy in most places looks well enough, but the ear is small owing to want of rain From inquiries made in all directions and from what the subdivisional officers have seen, the outturn is expected to be three-fourths of an average crop Scarcity of rain has affected the pulse crop which is not important	
50	Luckimpore	" 8th	0·07	The whole week was pleasantly fine and perfectly dry, with the exception of a shower on the night of the 7th instant	Rice crop rather backward Cold weather crops promising	Public health fa
51	Naga Hills .	" 1st	Nil	Mornings foggy, evenings chilly, days pleasant	Joom crops being gathered in and nearly completed; the outturn will be an average one. Terai crops will shortly be cut and promise well. Pathar crops very bad indeed, and no hope of their improving.	
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills	" 8th	Nil	The weather at Shillong has been clear, but in many parts of the country, notably in Jynteah Hills, slight rain has fallen.	The paddy crop has nearly all been harvested, and on the whole it has been equal in yield to last year's produce The cereals still standing are doing well; as also potatoes and cotton	
53	Garo Hills ..	" 8th	Nil	Weather hot during the day time Nights are getting cold No signs of rain.	There has been no rain and the prospects of the crops in consequence are bad. There is nothing much to remark on the crops of these hills On the northern slopes the cotton does not look so well as on the southern. Rice in the borders and in the districts of Goalpara and Mymensing is double the ordinary price.	

* Telegram of the 17th November received on the 18th Shows the rainfall during the seven days including the 17th idem.

Published for general information.

CALCUTTA, STATISTICAL DEPT.,
The 18th November 1873.

R. KNIGHT,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Govt. of {1873} Bengal.

Progs. 1873.

File

No. B.

Statement showing rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops in the different districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 15th November 1873

MENTIONED DISTRICTS OF BENGAL ON THE 15th NOVEMBER 1873.

THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire-wood.			Salt.			Remarks.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 8	14 0	22 8	100 0	90 0	...	8 8	8 8	9 4	
28 0	30 0	30 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	17 8	18 0	20 0	360 0	360 0	...	8 2	8 2	8 10	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	17 4	22 0	200 0	200 0	..	6 12	8 12	8 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 8	14 8	16 8	180 0	180 0	200 0	8 4	8 4	8 12	
...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	..	14 8	16 0	19 8	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	8 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	20 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	0 0	9 0	
...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	12 12	14 8	17 8	120 0	120 0	...	8 12	8 12	9 0	
...	...		...	..	...	.	...	...	15 4	16 13½	24 10	120 0	120 0	..	8 10½	8 10½	8 14	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	20 0	160 0	160 0	106 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 8	18 0	28 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	8 5	
...	...	...	..		..		...	..	10 12	12 0	24 0	98 7	98 7	..	7 8	7 8	7 8	
...	...	...	16 0	14 0	25 0	24 0	20 0	28 0	12 0	12 0	25 0	160 0	160 0	140 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	30 0	...	13 8	19 11	...	320 0	200 0	..	8 2½	8 0	..	
...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	11 13	14 0	15 0	107 0	107 0	120 0	7 6	7 8	6 4	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	15 0	12 0	65 0	60 0	60 0	7 8	7 8	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18 0	21 0	28 0	200 0	200 0	.	8 4	8 0	8 4	
...	...	...	10 0	10 0	10 0	16 0	20 0	20 0	8 0	6 0	8 0	200 0	200 0	200 0	4 0	4 8	4 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 4	13 0	20 0	80 0	80 0	...	8 8	8 8	8 9	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	16 0	20 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...		...	...	160 0	160 0	...	8 8	8 8	8 4	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 0	13 0	17 0	..	..	...	8 4	8 4	8 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 0	12 0	18 0	...	...	...	8 12	8 12	9 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	18 0	18 0	34 8	16 8	18 0	35 0	140 0	140 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
..	...	...	14 8	14 0	38 0	14 4	14 8	19 8	13 8	13 0	24 0	160 0	160 0	...	7 0	7 0	7 0	
17 4	17 8	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	17 8	18 0	20 0	160 0	150 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 4	
...	...	...	19 to 20	23 0	...	17 to 18	22 0	...	15 to 16	16 0	23 0	140 0	140 0	...	7 12	7 12	7 8	
18 0	22 0	32 0	23 0	24 0	...	16 0	20 0	...	16 0	19 0	26 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	21 0	24 6	...	16 0	17 6	26 0	160 0	160 0	...	7 0	7 0	7 0	
..	...	...	A 21 0 B 16 8	20 1 16 8	..	14 7	17 8	36 7	15 7	18 9	27 3	147 0	147 0	...	8 4	7 5	8 9	A Murwa. B Cheena.
...	...	...	...	...	...	17 11	18 14	37 14	17 0	18 15	26 8	176 12	176 12	184 2	8 3	8 3	8 3	
...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	12 0	13 0	22 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	7 0	6 5	7 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	21 0	20 0	40 0	12 0	12 0	19 0	480 0	480 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	16 0	16 0	...	...	...	...	27 9	27 9	26 9	200 0	200 0	...	9 2	9 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	10 0	10 0	10 0	64 0	64 0	...	7 0	7 0	9 0	
...	...	...	18 0	20 0	...	17 8	18 0	33 0	12 0	12 0	20 8	260 0	200 0	...	6 8	6 8	7 0	
...	...	..	33 0	30 0	...	...	20 0	30 0	...	13 0	16 0	161 0	260 0	...	6 12	6 4	6 5	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20 0	40 0	13 0	13 0	18 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	7 8	7 8	7 8	

Published for general information.

R. Knight,

Asst Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT OF FOOD-GRAINS AND SALT IN THE UNDER

QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY

Number.	DISTRICTS.	Wheat. Present return.	Wheat. Next preceding return.	Wheat. Corresponding return of last year.	Barley. Present return.	Barley. Next preceding return.	Barley. Corresponding return of last year.	Rice, best sort. Present return.	Rice, best sort. Next preceding return.	Rice, best sort. Corresponding return of last year.	Rice, common. Present return.	Rice, common. Next preceding return.	Rice, common. Corresponding return of last year.	Bulegur Millet—Cumboo, Bajra. Present return.	Bulegur Millet—Cumboo, Bajra. Next preceding return.	Bulegur Millet—Cumboo, Bajra. Corresponding return of last year.
		S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.
	BENGAL.															
	Western Districts.															
1	Burdwan	10 8	10 8	12 0	20 0	20 0	21 0	13 4	13 0	19 8	15 8	15 0	23 0	...	...	...
2	Bancoorah	11 14	11 14	14 8	22 0	22 0	20 0	12 0	12 8	15 0	15 0	15 0	17 8	24 0	25 0	24 0
3	Beerbhoom	12 0	12 0	14 0	...	...	...	12 12	13 8	16 8	16 8	15 0	19 8	...	...	...
4	Midnapore	10 4	10 4	10 8	...	...	...	15 8	15 8	19 8	20 0	20 0	24 0	...	...	...
5	Hooghly	11 0	12 0	13 0	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	13 0	13 12	13 8	18 0	...	...	...
	Howrah	11 0	12 0	13 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	11 0	12 8	16 0	14 0	18 0	19 0	...	...	...
	Central Districts.															
6	24-Pergunnahs ...	12 4	11 8	12 4	24 8	23 12	24 0	8 12	8 4	8 0	13 14	17 12	18 4	...	...	20 0
7	Nuddia	11 7	11 14	14 8	21 12	...	32 0	11 7	10 10½	16 0	13 5	12 5	17 5	...	...	...
8	Jessore	13 0	13 0	13 5	...	...	...	14 10	16 0	18 0	21 5	21 0	26 10	...	...	...
9	Moorshedabad ...	14 0	12 0	15 0	...	...	...	11 8	11 0	15 0	13 8	13 8	20 0	...	...	...
10	Dinagepore	11 0	12 0	13 8	16 0	17 0	22 8	11 0	11 0	22 0	14 8	14 0	28 0	...	...	...
11	Maldah	12 8	12 0	16 0	25 0	20 0	35 0	12 0	8 8	21 0	13 0	11 0	22 0	20 0	20 0	24 0
12	Rajshahye	10 8	10 8	15 0	26 4	30 0	30 0	12 0	12 0	15 0	13 8	16 0	22 8	...	...	...
13	Rungpore	10 8	11 4	11 4	...	...	...	10 2	10 2	14 10	11 13	11 4	22 8	...	...	...
14	Bograh	13 8	12 0	12 0	...	...	...	9 12	11 8	16 0	15 0	12 12	30 0	...	...	...
15	Pubna	15 0	15 8	16 8	...	...	...	12 0	12 0	12 0	16 8	14 8	27 8	...	...	...
16	Darjeeling	6 8	6 0	6 0	8 0	10 0	10 0	5 0	5 0	8 0	10 0	10 0	12 0	...	...	...
17	Julpigoree.*															
	Cooch Behar.*															
	Eastern Districts.															
18	Dacca	10 10	10 8	13 5	20 0	20 0	30 0	14 8	15 0	21 0	16 0	22 0	32 0	...	...	...
19	Furreedpore ...	16 0	16 0	20 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	10 0	16 8	18 0	21 0	...	...	...
20	Backergunge ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 0	11 8	18 0	19 0	20 0	27 8	...	...	...
21	Mymensing ...	10 8	11 4	12 0	...	...	...	14 0	16 0	20 0	17 0	18 0	28 0	...	...	...
22	Sylhet.* ...															
23	Cachar.* ...															
24	Chittagong.* ...															
25	Noakhally.* ..															
26	Tipperah.*	9 0	9 0	11 0	...	...	..	16 0	16 0	20 0	21 to 23	17 0	30 0	...	...	...
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts.*															
	Hill Tipperah.* ...															
	BEHAR.															
28	Patna	11 8	11 0	24 0	18 0	18 0	31 4	12 0	11 0	...	13 0	12 0	21 0	...	...	...
29	Gya	10 0	9 8	15 0	14 0	13 8	30 0	8 8	8 8	12 8	9 8	9 12	19 0	...	...	...
30	Shahabad ...	11 8	11 8	15 8	18 0	17 8	38 0	12 0	13 0	15 0	13 0	14 8	18 0	..	..	...
31	Tirhoot	10 to 11	11 0	15 0	19 0	19 0	20 0	10 8	10 0	14 8	11 to 12	13 0	15 8	..	...	...
32	Sarun	12 0	11 8	12 0	18 0	18 0	28 0	8 0	12 0	14 0	10 0	13 0	19 0	...	...	..
33	Chumparun ...	11 8	12 0	16 0	20 0	21 0	34 0	9 0	9 0	12 0	13 8	15 10	27 0	...	...	...
34	Monghyr	12 6	13 6	17 8	16 8	23 1	36 7	8 4	9 4	13 6	12 6	11 5	17 8	...	..	...
35	Bhangulpore ...	12 0	12 10	15 2	20 3	20 3	24 0	10 1	10 11	15 2	13 14	13 14	16 6	...	...	...
36	Purneah	10 0	10 0	16 0	..	...	40 0	10 0	11 0	18 0	12 0	14 0	25 0	.	...	...
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs	11 0	10 0	16 0	...	...	...	11 0	10 0	16 0	13 0	12 0	19 0	21 0	20 0	30 0
	ORISSA.															
38	Cuttack	13 2	14 7	17 1	...	...	...	21 0	33 10	21 0	26 4	31 8	38 1	...	...	...
39	Pooree															
40	Balasore	12 0	12 0	12 0	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	16 0	26 0	32 0	30 0	...	...	...
	CHOTA NAGPORE.															
	South-West Frontier Agency.															
41	Hazareebaugh ..	9 8	9 8	14 0	16 0	...	...	8 0	9 0	12 0	12 0	11 0	17 0	...	...	...
42	Lohardugga ...	11 0	11 0	11 0	...	...	20 0	10 0	10 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	22 0	...	...	..
43	Singbhoom															
44	Maunbhoom ...	11 0	12 8	13 0	...	...	24 0	16 0	14 0	14 0	17 0	15 0	20 0	...	...	...
	ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.															
45	Goalpara.*															
46	Kamroop.*															
47	Durrung.*															
48	Nowgong.* ...															
49	Seebsaugor.* ...															
50	Lukhimpore.* ...															
51	Naga Hills.*															
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills.*															
53	Garo Hills.*															

* Return not received.

CALCUTTA,
The 18th November 1873.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

Circular No. 77.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

To

Calcutta, the 13th November, 1873.

SIR,

AT paragraph 5, clause 6, of this Office Circular No. 70, dated 13th October, you were asked to state what the estimated outturn of each important food-crop of your district for 1873-74 would be compared with the outturn of any previous short year that could be named.

2. In the replies that have been received to that circular, some officers have reported that no year of short crops can be remembered in these districts; others, that no details can be obtained of the outturn of the last short year. Some have mentioned 1865-66 (*i.e.*, April 1865—March 1866) as their last short year; others have mentioned 1866-67 (*i.e.*, April 1866—March 1867) as their short year of comparison; while others again have taken the year 1868-69.

3. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that, so far as we can learn, the season 1865-66, that is, the year from June 1865 to July 1866, was most like what we are now experiencing; and therefore I am now to ask that you will be so good as to supplement the report you have already sent in reply to Circular No. 70, by now sending an explicit statement of the outturn estimated for 1873 of each food-crop compared with the outturn which you believe (from the best sources of information) to have been yielded in 1865-66.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

A. St. L. B.

Circular No. 78.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

FROM THE ASST. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

To

Calcutta, the 14th November, 1873.

SIR,

I AM directed to send you herewith a tabular statement in duplicate of the rainfall, and of the price of common rice at the sudder station of your district in the years 1864-65, 1865-66, 1868-69, and 1872-73, and to request that you will be good enough to make every effort to supplement these tables, where defective, by the local records under your charge. His Honor is particularly desirous that you should obtain—if necessary from the books of the native dealers—the price of rice during the year 1864.

2. You will also be good enough to verify and correct, as far as you possibly can, the tables as they now stand, and will retain one copy of each as a record in your office, returning the other without the least delay.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

R. KNIGHT,

Asst. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

A. St. L. B.

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

BURDWAN DIVISION.

BURDWAN DISTRICT.

		Average	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	25 6														
Orissa Famine	1864-65		22	21	19	19	20	20	20	19	19	20	17	17	17	19
	1865-66		17	12	12¾	16¼	13½	12¾	12¾	12¾	11¾	9¾	9	7¾	6	
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		24	22½	24	19½	21	21	21	23½	21¾	20½	17½	17½	18	18¾
	1872-73		22	21½	23	23¼	19	22	20	24	26¼	19½	17	17	21¾	17½
	1873-74		21¾	17½												

BANCOORAH DISTRICT.

		Average	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	25 5														
Orissa Famine	1864-65		22	21	19	19	20	20	20	19	19	20	17	17	17	18
	1865-66		17	12	17½	17	15	12½	12½	11	10	7½	7½	6	7½	15¾
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		25	25½	26¼	26¼	22	23¼	23¾	25	25	23¾	21½	23¾	22½	20
	1872-73		15½	16½	19	20½	20¼	20	20	20	20	19	16	17½	14¾	16
	1873-74		14¾	16												

BEERBHOOM DISTRICT.

		Average	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, (for 7 years)	1861-70	23														
Orissa Famine	1864-65															
	1865-66				13½	14¾	10½	11½	11½	12	12	9	8	8¼	8¼	9½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		25	25½	22½	20½	19	19½	18¾	19½	19½	16½	16	15	16½	21
	1872-73		21	19½	24	24	24	24	24	24	21	18½	18	20	20	16½
	1873-74		20	16¾												

MIDNAPORE DISTRICT.

		Average	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	24 7														
Orissa Famine	1864-65		19	20	20	20	23	22½	21	21	21	20	10	16	16	13½
	1865-66		16	15½	13	14	11	11	10	10	9	8½	7	6	9	10
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		22	22	22	22	17½	17	20	20	18	18	18	15	15	16
	1872-73		22	22	26	26	26	24	24	25	26	25	25	24	25	24
	1873-74		25	24												

Hooghly District

		Average	September.	October.	November	December.	January	February	March	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	19½														
Orissa Famine	1864-65	...	22	20	18	18	13½	11¾	12¼	17¾	16¼	16	15	16	16	19
	1865-66	...	16	13	12½	12½	12	12	12	11	11	9½	7	8	8½	8¾
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	...	18	19	18	15	14	15	14	18½	19	15	15	16¼	15½	16¼
	1872-73	...	20	18	18	18	17	10	15½	19	19	19	18½	18	19	18
	1873-74	...	19	18		...		...	...	...	...	...		...	...	

Howrah District.

		Average	September.	October.	November	December.	January	February	March	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	18·6	...		...	...		...		...		...		...		
Orissa Famine	1864-65	...	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	16	16	14
	1865-66	...	10	14	12½	12	13½	11½	12	10	12½	9½	8	...	10	8
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	...	...	18	19	19	19	19		16	16	16	16	16	16	16
	1872-73	...	...	18	18	20	20	20	22	22	22	20	20	20	20	19
	1873-74	...	...	20	19		...	...	...	...	...		...			

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

24-Pergunnahs.

		Average.	September.	October	November	December.	January	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July	August	September.	October
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	16 8														
Orissa Famine	1864-65		19	20	20	20	23	22½	21	21	21	20	16	16	16	13½
	1865-66		16	13½	13	16¾	18¾	16¼	11	11½	10½	10	8	7	8	7½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		18	20	18	16	18	19	19	20	20	18	16	17½	17½	17½
	1872-73		16½	17	18	17	17	18		20	18	19	18½	16	18¼	20
	1873-74		18¾	20												

Nuddea District.

		Average.	September.	October	November	December.	January	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July	August	September.	October
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	19														
Orissa Famine	1864-65		24½	20	20	19	17½	15	13	13	13	11½	10½	11	10½	10¼
	1865-66		10½	10½	14½	14½	13	12	12	11½	11½	9¾	8	10	11	12
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		22	20	20	19	22	17½	22	22	18	17½	16	20	17	18
	1872-73		17¾	17¾	17¾	20	20	20	20	24	18	17½	17½	17	17¾	16¼
	1873-74		17¾	16½												

Jessore District.

		Average.	September.	October	November	December.	January	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July	August	September.	October
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	18 5														
Orissa Famine	1864-65															
	1865-66				18½	18½	18	11	11½	12	10	9	8	10¾	11	
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		22	22	22½	23	22	22	20	21	21	18½	15	15	18½	18
	1872-73		29	26½	26½	26½	26½	29	29	26½	25½	25½	25½	25	24¾	
	1873-74		25½													

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

MOORSHEDABAD DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	21·3	..	..	.	..		.	.	.	.	.	..		...	...
Orissa Famine	1864-65	...	..	...	..	..	.	...	...	..	.	.	..	.		
	1865-66	...	..	.	13½	12½	12	13	11	10¼	10	9	8	9	8	
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	...	22½	22½	24½	22	20	19	19	19	19½	18½	17	17	18	18½
	1872-73	...	19	19	19	22	22	22	22	22	18	18½	19	16	16	15
	1873-74	...	16	15	...	...	..	..		..	..	..	...	.	..	...

DINAGEPORE DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	26	...	.	.	.	...	..	...	.	..	...	...	...	..	...
Orissa Famine	1864-65	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	.	...	..	.	...	...	.
	1865-66	...	.	.	18½	19½	18	20	19	15	17½	15	11½	12	11	..
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	...	35	40	40	38	28	25½	30	26	28	25	24	20	22	23
	1872-73	...	27	28	28	30	30	28	28	27	27	24	24	..	24	19
	1873-74	...	24	19	..	...	..	.	..	...	.	.	.	..	...	...

MALDAH DISTRICT

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	29·7	...	..	..	..	...	...		...	..	.	.	...	...	..
Orissa Famine	1864-65	...	..	...	...			.	.	..	...	...	..	..	...	..
	1865-66	...	.	..	16	13	14	14½	14	11½	11½	11	10	10½	10½	10½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	...	24	29	27	24	22	21	23	23	20	18	16	17	18	19
	1872-73	...	22	22	23	24	23	24	25	24½	23	22	20	18	20	18
	1873-74	...	20	16	..	...	...	...	...	..	.	..	.	.	...	

RAJSHAHYE DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	21·2	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	.	..	.	..
Orissa Famine	1864-65	...	...	.	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	.	.	..	..	..
	1865-66	...	..	..	15	15½	...	..	...	...	..	..	..	12	9	12
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	...	25	26½	26½	21½	21	22½	23½	24	25	18½	16½	17½	18½	18
	1872-73	...	22½	24½	25½	24½	24	25	26	24	22	21½	21	18	21	15
	1873-74	...	21	15	..	..	..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...

Rungpore District.

		Average.	September	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	23 7	...	...	...			...			...	...	...			
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.....	...	...		...		...	...	...		...	...	...		
	1865-66	.....	...	...	16	22	20	16½		16	17	16	11½	10	10	
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.....	28	19	29½	28	29½	24½	28½	24½	24½	24½	22½	20½	21	18
	1872-73	.....	24½	22½	25½	29½	30	30	27	27½	25	23	26	18	15½	15½
	1873-74	...	15½	15½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Bograh District.

		Average.	September	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	26·7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.....	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66	.....	...	...	22	18	19	18	17	16½	17	14	11	10	10½	10½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.....	32½	32½	32½	33	28	31	30	30	29	27	22	22	22½	22½
	1872-73	.....	30	30	34	36	32	34	34	33½	30	28	26½	24	24	18½
	1873-74	.....	24	18½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Pubna District.

		Average.	September	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	22·6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66	.....	...	...	17½	17½	16	14½	14½	13½	11½	9½	10½	10½	11	11½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.....	26½	30	30	26½	26½	23½	22½	22½	22½	22½	21	22½	22½	20
	1872-73	.....	28½	27½	30	30	30	30	30	28	26½	26½	26½	22½	25	19
	1873-74	.....	25	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

COOCH BEHAR DIVISION

Darjeeling District

		Average.	September	October.	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, (for 8 years)	1861-70	11														
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.	..						.							
	1865-66				8	7	10	10	8	8	8	8	7	8	7½	7
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.	13½	11	14	14	13		15	13	13½	11	10	10	11	10
	1872-73	.	11	12	11	14	15	16	15	15	12	13	14	14	12	
	1873-74		12													

Julpigooree District.

Average of 10 years,	1861-70															
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.	.	.	.							.	..		.	
	1865-66			.												
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69														.	
	1872-73	.	14	14	16	16	20	24	22	24	20	18	20		18	
	1873-74	..	18					.		...					.	

Cooch Behar District.

Average of 10 years	1861-70	..		.			.							.		
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.		..			.									
	1865-66			.							..				..	...
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69		.	.							.		..			...
	1872-73			.		..										
	1873-74					..										

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

DACCA DIVISION.

DACCA DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October	November	December	January.	February.	March	April.	May	June.	July	August	September	October
Average of 10 years	1861 70	24														...
Orissa Famine	1864-65			...												
	1865-66				15	16	14	14	13	11	11	10½	10½	10½	10	11½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	...	25	25	22	20	19	22	22	24	21	17	18	19	18	17
	1872-73	..	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	28	30	28	25	25	23
	1873-74		25	25	.		...									..

*FURREEDPORE DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October	November	December	January.	February.	March	April.	May	June.	July	August	September	October
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	29	.	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	.	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.....	.	..		.		.	..	.	...	.	...	...	...	
	1865-66	.....	...	...	15	14	12	13	12	13	10	9½	9½	9	8½	9½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.....	23	21	22	20	20	19	22	21	22	16	14	18	18	16
	1872-73	.....	24	24	21	20	20	27	26	25	25	22½	24	23	22	18
	1873-74	.....	22	18	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...		...

BACKERGUNGE DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October	November	December	January.	February.	March	April.	May	June.	July	August	September	October
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.....	...	...	..	..	...	..	...	..		...	..	...	...	...
	1865 66	. .	...	..	18	17	15	. .	14	14	13	11	10½	9	9	8½
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.....	17½	20	18	20	16	18½	22	20	20	17	14	17	—	18
	1872-73	.....	27	27	27	28	28	31	30	28	22	26	26	25	26	25
	1873-74	...	26	25	.	...	...	. .	...	...	...	..	...	.	...	...

MYMENSING DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October	November	December	January.	February.	March	April.	May	June.	July	August	September	October
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .	...	...	...	...	...	..
Orissa Famine	1864-65	. .	...	...	...	..	...	. .	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...
	1865-66	. .	...	..	19	19	18	18	...	16	14	11	12	6½	9	...
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.....	25	20	22	2.½	21	24½	24½	22	23	20	18	18	18	18
	1872-73	.....	26	27	29	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	31	26½	23½	18
	1873-74	.....	23½	18	..	7	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	. .	...

Sylhet District.

	Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, 1861-70	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1865-66	.....	...	...	19	17½	16	16	14	10½	10½	8	10½	11½	9	10½
Rajpootana Famine .. 1868-69	.....	28	31	28½	23½	21	14	16	18	15½	17½	19	21	22½	21
1872-73 ...	.....	34	38	38½	40	40	35	35	33	32	32	34	31½	31	...
1873-74 .	.....	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Cachar District.

	Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, 1861-70 ...	23·6	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1865-66 .	.....	...	...	...	...	12½	16	14	11½	9	4½	10	10	8½	9
Rajpootana Famine ... 1868-69 ...	.....	28	26	28	26	20	18	22	20	22	18	16	22	20	17½
1872-73 ...	.....	32	33	35½	33	32	32	32	32	30½	30½	29	29	32	...
1873-74 ...	.....	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

CHITTAGONG DIVISION.

CHITTAGONG DISTRICT.

	Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, 1861-70 ...	21·9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65 ..	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	
Orissa Famine ... 1865-66 ...	.....	...	...	19	19	18	18	15	17	16	16	14	15	11	18
Rajpootana Famine... 1868-69 ..	.....	21	24	22	18	20	20	21	20	15	15	14	14	18	18
1872-73 ..	.....	22	23	27	...	26	25	23	24	24	24	24	21	20	24
1873-74 ...	.....	20	24	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...

NOAKHALLY DISTRICT.

	Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, 1861-70 ...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1865-66 .	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rajpootana Famine... 1868-69 ..	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872-73 ...	.....	27	24	24	23	25	27	27	25	24	24	26	24	21	22
1873-74 ..	.....	23	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TIPPERAH DISTRICT.

	Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, 1861-70 ...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1865-66 ..	.....	...	...	22½	21¼	18	14¼	15	16	14	12½	12	11	14	14
Rajpootana Famine ... 1868-69 ...	.....	25	26	26	20¼	25	25	25	26	26	25	20	21¼	20	21½
1872-73 .	.....	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	20	25	25	25
1873-74 ...	.....	25	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

	Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, 1861-70 ...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1865-66 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rajpootana Famine .. 1868-69 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872-73 ...	.....	14½	16	16	...	17	16	16	18	20	16	17½	17½	16	...
1873-74 ...	.....	16	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

HILL TIPPERAH.

	Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, 1861-70 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1865-66 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rajpootana Famine.. 1868-69 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872-73	.....	33½	...	42½	...	40	33½	40	40	32	30½	28½	20	24½	...
1873-74 .	.....	24½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

PATNA DIVISION.

PATNA DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 .	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66 .	.....	...	...	13½	13	13½	14	13	11	10½	9½	9½	8½	11	11
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ..	.....	20	20	17	16	23	16	16	16	16	16	13½	14	15½	17½
	1872-73 ..	...	21	19½	20	25	25	23½	22½	22	18	18	17½	17	16	14½
	1873-74 ..	...	18	14½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

GYA DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	23·3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66	.....	...	...	12	15	14	13½	12	10½	10	9½	9	7½	9½	10
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	.....	17	19½	16	16	18½	13	12½	13	13½	12½	11½	10½	11	11½
	1872-73 ...	.....	19	18	19½	20½	19	19	19½	18	17	16½	15	14	12½	11
	1873-74 ..	.....	12½	11	..	...	..	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...

SHAHABAD DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	19	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ..	1864-65 ...	.....	.	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..	..	...	..	...
	1865-66 ..	.....	...	...	12	14	12½	12½	12½	9½	10½	9½	9	7½	10½	15
Rajpootana Famine ..	1868-69 ..	.....	22	19	18	16½	17	17	18	17	16½	15	14	13½	15	16
	1872-73 ...	.....	18	16	19	19	19	19	20	18	17	16	15	16	14½	14½
	1873-74 ...	.....	14½	14½	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TIRHOOT DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	19·6	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ..	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
	1865-66 ...	.....	...	...	14	12½	13	12	12	9½	9	9	9	8	10	9½
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	.....	21	24	20	22	16½	16	16	17	14	13½	13	13	15	16
	1872-73	.....	15	16	18	21	22	22	22	21	20	17	16½	17½	17½	15½
	1873-74 ..	.....	17½	15½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...

Sarun District.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	17·9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...		...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66 ...	...	...	...	13	15	18½	...	18½	12	11½	11	10	9½	12	12½
Rajpootana Famine ..	1868-69	...	20	19	16	16	16	17	16	17	16	15	14½	13	15	17
	1872-73 ...	...	20	19	20	22	22	22	22	20	17	16½	16½	16½	16	14½
	1873-74 ...	...	16	14½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...

Chumparun District.

Average of 10 years.	1861-70 ...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66 .	...	...	...	10	11½	13	10½	11	9	9	9	8½	6½	11	14
Rajpootana Famine. .	1868-69 ..	...	25	23	23	18	17	16	14	18	17	14	15	14	16	22
	1872-73 ...	...	19	23	26	27	27	27	27	24	25	18	19	20	21	20
	1873-74 .	...	21	20	...	...		.	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.

MONGHYR DISTRICT.

		Average.	September	October.	November	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	23·5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	.....	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66 ...	.....	...	...	15½	14½	12	12	10½	9	10	10	7½	8	10	10
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	.....	20	23	21	20	19½	17½	18	17	17	15	15½	14	15	18½
	1872-73 ..	.....	16½	16½	19½	19½	17½	21½	18½	18½	16½	15½	16½	15½	16½	15½
	1873-74 ...	.....	16½	13½	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	.	...	...	.

BHAUGULPORE DISTRICT.

Average of 10 years, (for 4 years.)	1861-70 ...	18·8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	...	...	.	..	...	.	...	..	..		.	.		..	...
	1865-66 ...	...	..		11½	11	12	13	12½	12	11	10	8	9	9	10
Rajpootana Famine ..	1868-69 ...	...	20	22	22	17	17	17	17	17	17	15	15	14½	14½	17
	1872-73 ...	...	19	16	17½	17½	11½	22½	17½	16½	16½	16½	17	17½	17½	17
	1873-74 ..	..	17½	17	...	..	.	.			.	.		.		

PURNEAH DISTRICT.

Average of 10 years,	1861-70 .	25			.	.		.		..	..		..	.	..	.
Orissa Famine	1864-65	.. ..	.					.		.	.	.	..	.		..
	1865-66 ..	.... .	...	..	18	18	18	16	..	12	12	9	9½	8	12	12
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69 ..	..	30	28	27½	24	23	23	20	22	20	18	15	16	16	17
	1872-73 ...	.	20	25	25	28	28	27	27	25	23	10	10	10	17½	14
	1873-74 .	...	17½	14	.		.	...	..			.	..		..	..

SONTHAL PERGUNNAHS.

Average of 10 years,	1861-70 .	20	...	...	..	...	..	.		..	.	...	...		...	
Orissa Famine	1864-65 ...		...	...		..	.	.		..	...	..	...	...	..	..
	1865-66 .	..	...	.	12	12		12	11	10	9	10	8	7½	10	10
Rajpootana Famine .	1868-69	..	25	25	22	22	17	16½	17½	18	18	17	15	15	15½	21
	1872-73	.	19	18	15	21	24	23	23	23	18	16½	16	16½	20	18
	1873-74 .	.	20	18	.		.	.	.		..	..			..	.

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

ORISSA DIVISION.

Cuttack District.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	24·5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ..	...	33	30	30	25	30	31	28	27	27	20	23	22	17	18
	1865-66 ..	...	17	18	12	10½	13	...	10	6¾	7½	4½	4½	5½	6½	8
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	...	27	26½	19	25	24	27	28	28	27	22	21	22	19	18
	1872-73 ..	...	20½	38	34	34	34	30	30	32½	30	29	29	30½	31½	31½
	1873-74 ...	...	31½	31½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

Pooree District.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ..	1864-65 ..	...	30	29	28½	25	31½	27½	22½	21½	21½	20	18½	17½	13½	13½
	1865-66 ...	...	13½	13½	11½	12½	...	9½	8	8½	7	5	5	5	7	7½
Rajpootana Famine ..	1868-69 ...	...	...	28	20½	23	21	26½	28	28	31½	30	23	23	18	27
	1872-73 ..	...	24½	34	32½	...	31½	34	38½	42	38	34	34	35½	35½	...
	1873-74 ...	...	35½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Balasore District.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	28·8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	...	37	36	36	38	30	30	28	27	25	22	22	23	22	20
	1865-66 .	...	22	20	17	17	12	10	11	9	9	6	6½	5½	7	9½
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	...	24	32	27½	30	27½	...	30	29	29	26	26	26	26	28
	1872-73 ...	...	28	...	32	32	28	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	32
	1873-74 ...	...	38	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION.

HAZAREEBAUGH DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April	May.	June	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	18·6	...	..	.	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
	1865-66 ...	.....	...	..	18	14	12	12	11¼	11	9	9	8	6½	7½	7
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	.....	23	21½	19	17	18	17	15	18	19	16½	16½	15	15½	18
	1872-73 ...	.....	16	18	18	18	17	18	17	17½	17	16	14	14	14	12½
	1873-74 ...	.....	14	13¾	...	.	.	..	.	...	...	...	...	.	...	...

LOHARDUGGA DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April	May.	June	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ..	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865-66 ...	.....	...	...	18	19	16	14	13	13	12½	11½	10½	8	8½	19
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	.....	23	28	30	22	21	16	17	18	19½	19	20	19	19	24
	1872-73 ...	.....	24	20	22	24	20	18	17	17	17	17	18	...	14	14
	1873-74 ...	.....	14	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SINGBHOOM DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April	May.	June	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	30·6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	.....	28	28	28	28	28	28	24	21	24	24	24	20	18	16
	1865-66 ...	.....	18	16	16	16	14	...	16	12	12	8	6	5	6	10
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	.....	16	20	33	32	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	24	24	24
	1872-73 ..	.....	36	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	32	32	24	24	24	...
	1873-74 ...	.....	24	..	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	..	...

MAUNBHOOM DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April	May.	June	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, (for 5 years).	1861-70	17·8	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	..
Orissa Famine ..	1864-65 ..	.....	31	28	25	25	23	22	20	20	20	20	20	10	18	17
	1865-66 ...	.....	19	17	18	18	13	16	14	13	10	8	6½	4	6	9
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	.....	...	40	36	34	26	...	..	...	28	26	26	26	28	28
	1872-73 ...	...	20	20	20	27	25	24	23	24	24	22	18	18	18	16
	1873-74 ...	. .	18	16	..	..	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...

PRICE OF ORDINARY COMMON RICE.—SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

AS ISIO

GOALPARAH DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70 ...	22	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	..	...
	1865-66 ...	...	...	...	13	13	...	16	12½	12½	12	9	9	8	10	10½
Rajpootana Famine ..	1868-69 ...	...	16	16	16	16	16	13	13	16	16	15½	11½	15	16	18
	1872-73 ...	...	...	13	19	20	22	27	30	24	21	22	25	30	...	...
	1873-74 ..	.	..		...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...

KAMROOP DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years, (for 8 years).	1861-70 ...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	
	1865-66 ..	..	...	...	15	15	16	16	16	14	14	12	10	9½	11	11
Rajpootana Famine ...	1868-69 ...	...	14	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	13	11	11	16	16
	1872-73 ..	...	...	26	20	...	20	25	24	20	20	20	...	25	20	...
	1873-74 ...	..	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...

DURRUNG DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 5 years,	1867-70 ...	12	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Orissa Famine ...	1864-65 ...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..
	1865-66 ...	...	...	..	.	12	10½	12	12	10	10	9½	8	7	8	10
Rajpootana Famine ..	1868-69 ...	..	13	13	16	16	16	13	13	13	16	14½	11½	14	14	14
	1872-73 ...	..	..	16	16	...	16	21	18	21	21	...	...	16	16	..
	1873-74 ...		16	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	..

NOWGONG DISTRICT.

		Average.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Average of 10 years,	1861-70	15·7	...	..	...	..	..	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ..	1864-65 ..	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	..
	1865-66 ..	...	...	...	9	9	9	8	6	8	8	...	...	...	7	10
Rajpootana Famine	1868-69	.	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
	1872-73 .	...	18	18	20	...	21	21	21	21	18	18	18	18	18	...
	1873-74	..	18	...		.	.	...	..	...	...	.	..	..	.	...

Sibsaugor District.

	Average.	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October
Average of 10 years, 1861-70	18 6	...	...							...	...				
Orissa Famine 1864-65	...	...	...												
Orissa Famine 1865-66			...	21½	20	8	12	10	10	10	10	10	8	9	9
Rajpootana Famine ... 1868-69	...	6	6	8	14	16	16	14	14	14	14	14	12	12	12
1872-73	...	...	18	20	...	16	14	12	12	12	...	...		10	
1873-74	...	10	...												

Luckimpore District.

	Average.	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October
Average of 10 years, 1861-70 ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Orissa Famine 1864-65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	
Orissa Famine 1865-66 ...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	8	8	...	6	5	5	6	...
Rajpootana Famine .. 1868-69	...	11	11	11	10	12	11	11	12	12	12	12	10	10	10
1872-73	...	...	14	18½		13	13	14	14	10	...	...	...	...	
1873-74 ...	...	...	...		...										

Naga Hills.

	Average.	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October
Average of 10 years, 1861-70	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...		...		...
Orissa Famine 1864-65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine 1865-66	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rajpootana Famine . 1868-69 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1872-73	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...
1873-74 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...

Khasia and Jyntea Hills.

	Average.	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October
Average of 7 years, 1863-70 ..	7 8	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Famine ... 1864-65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Orissa Famine 1865-66			...	...	...	12	12	9	7	...	...	...	6	5½	...
Rajpootana Famine . 1868-69	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...
1872-73	...		13	13½		10	16	14	13	...	...	...	...	...	...
1873-74			...	...	...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	

Garo Hills.

	Average.	September.	October.	November	December.	January.	February	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October
Average of 10 years, 1861-70	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Orissa Famine 1864-65	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Orissa Famine 1865-66	...		...		...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...		
Rajpootana Famine . 1868-69 ...	...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
1872-73 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
1873-74		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			

BURDWAN DIVISION.

BURDWAN.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October	November	December.
Average years ...	59·41	0·53	1·01	1·38	2·02	4·08	10·43	12·52	11·71	8·75	5·75	0·47	0·46
(Orissa Famine) 1864 ...	...	...	1·20	0·902	1·50	5·90	7·35	15·50	9·70	4·00	8·30	?	
(Orissa Famine) 1865 ...	52·60	...	2·00	1·00	1·90	16·30	8·20	14·00	4·00	8·00			0·12
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868 ...	76·60	..	0·70	0·00	1·00	6·50	12·00	8·00	29·60	14·50	1·00		
1872 ...	42·47	...	0·60	.	2·02	2·51	7·27	6·66	8·33	5·52	9·44	..	0·12
1873 ...	.....	..	..	2·00	4·17	3·44	6·41	19·60	17·15	4·44	0·20	.	..

BANCOORAH.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October	November	December.
Average years ...	52·57	0·33	0·87	1·40	1·99	3·06	9·81	12·00	10·04	8·17	4·39	0·18	0·08
(Orissa Famine) 1864 ...	38·95	...	...	0·20	1·00	3·70	4·80	9·50	9·50	9·20	1·05		...
(Orissa Famine) 1865 ...	60·65	...	1·10	3·30	4·40	3·90	15·80	15·85	6·80	10·00	0·50		..
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868 ...	62·25	0·50	0·40	..	3·00	2·75	15·25	6·55	15·30	17·10	1·00	...	...
1872 ...	44·41	..	0·96	...	2·14	2·70	5·60	5·34	8·01	8·85	10·81	..	..
1873 ...	.....	..	.	5·40	1·45	2·26	3·28	15·18	14·72	3·65	0·80	..	...

BEERBHOOM.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October	November	December.
Average years ...	51·54	0·43	0·75	0·72	0·89	2·66	8·20	12·45	11·08	8·05	4·17	0·13	0·17
(Orissa Famine) 1864 ...	.....	..	...		...	...	..	..	..	..	.		.
(Orissa Famine) 1865 ...	.....	..	..	.	...	.	...	...	...	..	...	..	.
(Rajpootana Famine) .. 1868 ...	41·25	0·10	0·60	..	0·28	2·54	8·85	8·85	10·45	9·20	0·40	..	...
1872 ...	50·94	0·07	2·48	..	1·62	5·09	3·28	12·74	10·37	5·77	0·43	0·10	...
1873 ...	.....	0·02	...	1·13	0·30	1·12	3·92	24·74	17·49	3·75	0·01	...	..

MIDNAPORE.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October	November	December.
Average years ...	62·28	0·78	0·36	2·03	1·53	5·47	12·40	11·24	11·59	9·64	6·32	0·42	..
(Orissa Famine) 1864 ...	....	...	..	...	..	..	...	...	.	..	.	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865 ...	....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	.	.	..	..
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868 ...	72·50	...	0·30	0·10	5·00	3·40	22·80	5·40	19·90	13·20	1·30	..	...
1872 ...	55·59	..	0·12	0·82	..	1·88	11·04	8·97	12·92	8·56	11·26	0·02	...
1873 ...	...	0·12	...	0·72	1·95	9·21	7·11	13·97	6·60	4·92	0·11	..	...

HOOGHLY.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average ...	62·03	0·70	1·71	2·79	4·49	5·45	12·44	13·23	14·60	9·40	4·14	0·54	0·13
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...		...	...	...
1865	64·00	...	3·00	5·00	5·50	12·50	12·50	7·50	9·50	8·00	...	...	...
(Rajpootana) Famine 1868	116·15	...	1·00	3·00	20·79	4·20	15·80	9·55	40·50	21·40	8·00		
1872	51·01	0·50	3·70	...	2·18	2·40	7·09	9·69	7·62	8·38	8·16	...	1·00
1873	...	...		0·90	2·39	4·57	4·48	15·36	6·72	3·77	0·60	...	...

HOWRAH.

Average years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...	
1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	...	?	?	?	?	?	23·20	14·80	25·30	21·10	0·00	...	...
1872	47·69	...	2·28	0·26	2·79	1·71	9·99	4·92	9·82	8·26	7·51	0·02	0·11
1873	...	0·05	...	1·20	1·81	3·58	4·41	19·31	8·83	0·63	0·74	...	...

PRESIDENCY DIVISION

24-Pergunnahs.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September	October.	November.	December
Average years ..													
(Orissa Famine) 1864	77·00				1·00	11·00	21·00	10·00	14·00	13·00	7·00		
(Orissa Famine) 1865	67·30		1·80	2·30	7·00	17·50	9·00	15·20	4·20	0·70			
(Rajpootana Famine) .. 1868													
1872	42·79		2·28	0·21	1·47	2·57	8·15	6·96	10·26	7·37	3·40		0·12
1873				1·11	1·45	3·75	3·55	15·73	12·11	5·12	1·54		

Nuddea.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September	October.	November.	December
Average years ...	56·95	0·43	0·90	0·83	4·17	7·43	11·34	9·29	9·44	7·58	4·98	0·33	0·18
(Orissa Famine) 1864						6·90	12·70	?	8·70	5·00	12·80	?	
(Orissa Famine) 1865	60·20		2·80	1·20	3·10	22·60	12·00	7·00	5·50	11·40			
(Rajpootana Famine) .. 1868	79·80		0·35	1·00	4·70	10·30	10·75	11·50	30·20	7·36	3·70		
1872	42·07	0·08	1·75		0·42	4·90	9·53	6·69	5·62	7·27	5·73	0·08	
1873				1·15	2·71	3·94	3·52	18·15	14·30	2·42	3·08		

Jessore.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July	August.	September	October.	November.	December
Average years ..	66·41	0·23	0·56	1·33	4·50	7·27	13·42	10·98	10·91	9·32	6·39	0·80	0·01
(Orissa Famine) 1864													
(Orissa Famine) 1865													
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	84·02	0·02	1·56	1·22	10·27	9·85	16·62	13·24	20·53	9·90	2·22		
1872	69·41	0·09	2·41	0·19	10·13	6·57	12·32	9·60	8·74	12·56	0·67		0·14
1873		0·16	0·04	0·05	2·84	8·48	8·21	9·85	14·09	4·57	0·61		

RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.

MOORSHEDABAD.

Rainfall		Total	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October.	November	December.
Average of years		54·09	0·31	0·28	1·09	2·27	4·17	9·89	10·44	9·86	9·69	6·18	0·20	0·10
(Orissa Famine)	1864	50·70?		0·20	0·90		2·45	11·85	8·61	9·80	10·50	6·38	?	
	1865	51·30		2·00	2·20	2·20	9·69	3·95	14·10	9·01	8·75			...
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	61·87	...	1·38	0·78	1·98	8·12	12·71	8·40	18·07	9·36	1·07		...
	1872	65·62	0·09	2·81	0·14	0·63	3·30	13·66	9·00	9·48	16·57	12·19		...
	1873	...	0·20	0·01	1·50	0·68	0·70	3·01	9·71	10·30	4·96	0·42		...

DINAGUPORE.

Rainfall		Total	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		84·59	0·18	0·68	0·80	2·64	8·22	10·01	17·19	14·98	13·78	8·30	0·19	0·02
(Orissa Famine)	1864	...	...	...			...	...				...		...
	1865	86·10		2·00	1·70	12·00	7·60	22·40	24·20	10·40	6·00	...		0·20
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	66·28	...	0·60	2·90	0·75	7·10	18·03	11·20	12·10	13·30	0·10	...	...
	1872	75·79	0·95	0·87	0·03	...	4·00	14·02	17·06	16·73	10·92	10·61	...	...
	1873	...	0·50	0·28	0·61	0·66	0·41	18·27	8·24	12·62	1·63	...	...	...

MALDAH.

Rainfall		Total	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		55·88	0·76	1·51	1·53	1·78	3·38	9·00	10·45	9·48	10·19	4·80	0·22	0·46
(Orissa Famine)	1864	37·14?	0·60	0·80	...		2·72	9·32	10·80	11·40	1·50	...	?	
	1865	57·66	...	3·42	1·71	1·31	7·50	11·24	18·90	6·40	3·78	...	...	3·30
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	43·31	0·05	...	0·05	2·00	3·50	7·20	6·65	15·21	8·55	0·10	...	...
	1872	52·51	0·09	1·34	0·02	0·40	2·81	11·84	14·13	5·09	7·72	8·08	...	...
	1873	.....	0·45	...	0·29	1·10	0·66	4·26	7·08	7·76	4·91	0·92	...	...

RAJSHAHYE.

Rainfall		Total	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		61·71	0·12	1·24	1·30	2·14	5·53	11·35	13·13	9·54	11·19	5·81	0·31	0·05
(Orissa Famine)	1864	39·06?	...	2·20	...	1·00	4·30	9·80	12·70	13·00	9·00	6·40	?	...
	1865	60·00	...	2·00	1·90	5·10	10·30	5·70	17·80	9·60	7·10	0·50	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	71·52	0·02	3·40	3·00	3·10	9·25	14·45	13·20	10·75	11·20	3·15	...	...
	1872	54·98	...	2·37	0·06	1·00	2·71	6·74	10·27	4·94	16·48	10·41	...	...
	1873	.....	0·48	0·15	1·49	1·09	0·31	6·90	6·73	11·27	8·12	0·32	...	...

RUNGPORE.

Rainfall		Total	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		88·19	0·12	0·27	0·97	2·68	10·08	23·32	18·86	13·57	12·50	5·01	0·33	0·12
(Orissa Famine)	1864	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	84·50	...	0·40	1·30	1·20	6·10	15·50	15·70	14·90	28·60	0·50	...	...
	1872	80·25	...	0·10	0·01	1·75	10·39	16·49	16·56	13·54	17·64	8·59	...	...
	1873	.....	0·05	0·24	0·90	8·24	1·07	13·09	3·93	14·11	2·03	...	...	...

Bograh.

Rainfall	Total	January.	February	March.	April.	May	June.	July	August.	September	October	November	December
Average years	88 41	0·29	0·92	0·91	4 69	9·57	17 10	19 91	12 16	15 52	5·00	1·88	0 03
(Orissa Famine) 1864	95 90		2 40	0 70	1·00	11 70	19·80	18 80	15 60	17 30	8 00	1 20	.
(Orissa Famine) 1865	79·00		1 50	1 60	7 00	11·70	18 90	21·80	7·90	8 20	1 80		...
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	73·00	0·10	1·70	1 30	2 90	9 40	15 50	11 90	6·50	19·50	2·20		.
1872	66·88	..	1·12	...	0·72	12·19	11·43	18·13	5·95	13·47	5·87	...	..
1873	....	0·22	0·12	0·47	3·12	2·01	6·74	7·95	12·83	2·29	..	..	

Pubna.

Rainfall	Total	January.	February	March.	April.	May	June.	July	August.	September	October	November	December
Average years	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	.
(Orissa Famine) 1864	... .	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	.. ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	..	...
1872	59·38	..	2·08	0·14	2·53	6·04	10·85	6·42	8 94	12·39	7·99	..	...
1873	... ..	0·06	0·11	0·80	7·13	3·14	5·98	15·51	7·19	4·81	0·45	..	...

COOCH BEHAR DIVISION.

DARJEELING.

Rainfall	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	124 95	0·58	1 39	1·69	3·92	6·87	27 63	29·67	26 20	17·65	8·14	0·24	0·11
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...				
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	
(Rajpootana Famine) .. 1868	135·34	0·45	1 35	1·17	3·26	4·07	34·75	31 39	43·35	14·34	0 42		0·18
1872	107·48	0·36	0 50	1·14	4·36	3 70	20·54	30 57	21·21	14·52	10·56		...
1873	...	...	0 27	1·45	6·10	5·08	12·76	22·46	13·66	10·36	0·02	...	...

JULPIGOREE.

Rainfall	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...		
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	
1872	126 00	0 90	...	0 65	0·83	11·03	23·76	23 80	26 98	22·93	8·98	0·03	
1873	...	0·05	0·05	0·75	7·48	2 67	28·93	15·66	13 79	18·70			

COOCH BEHAR.

Rainfall	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872	133·29	1·20	...	0 52	8·29	11·46	43·20	16·11	27·26	18 68	6·57	...	...
1873	...	...	...	1 46	7·52	8·53	51·64	22 93	18 11	10 16	...		...

DACCA DIVISION.

DACCA.

Rainfall		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December
Average years		74·43	0·56	0·73	1·38	5·95	9·87	13·60	13·22	12·19	9·12	5·84	0·83	0·05
(Orissa Famine)	1864	91·79		0·17	3·23	3·89	13·80	20·90	17·58	15·78	8·66	8·66	0·54	
	1865	76·04	...	0·74	1·56	14·16	9·32	14·97	21·62	6·32	4·58	2·77		
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	76·78	...	4·90	0·70	9·60	5·70	15·10	8·00	17·17	14·56	0·94	0·11	
	1872	64·10	0·05	0·70	0·50	6·40	9·00	8·95	14·00	9·80	12·00	4·20		
	1873	...	...	0·05	1·20	5·60	4·35	9·60	16·00	17·22	8·96	0·90		

FURREEDPORE.

Rainfall		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December
Average years		75·83	0·58	1·21	1·97	5·96	10·77	15·18	13·07	12·05	8·34	5·18	0·53	0·01
(Orissa Famine)	1864	84·50	...	0·80	1·60	3·40	10·50	25·90	14·30	10·20	4·90	7·70	1·20	...
	1865	85·00	...	3·10	0·80	11·00	20·50	9·50	21·30	9·90	7·00	4·00	...	
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	63·10	...	2·60	1·20	4·60	9·10	13·50	5·40	16·10	10·60	...	...	...
	1872	51·35	...	5·63	...	2·31	8·78	2·91	13·66	7·82	9·74	7·42	...	...
	1873	...	...	1·40	0·43	3·10	5·20	5·14	7·85	11·53	10·90	...		

BACKERGUNGE.

Rainfall		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December
Average years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine)	1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1872	83·14	0·37	0·96	0·86	5·26	10·41	15·96	14·43	11·37	17·41	5·44	0·11	0·56
	1873	...	0·59	...	1·12	2·82	5·29	7·67	16·42	17·29	7·86	1·96	...	...

MYMENSING.

Rainfall		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December
Average years		106·05	0·23	1·22	1·22	7·97	13·41	28·36	26·19	15·06	14·59	5·74	0·12	
(Orissa Famine)	1864	119·30	0·40	2·60	1·70	4·80	18·20	28·40	22·80	17·00	15·20	7·00	1·20	
	1865	134·00	...	1·60	0·80	29·70	30·00	27·00	27·20	10·80	5·30	...		
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	98·17	...	2·90	1·35	8·37	11·45	25·63	16·75	20·70	9·90	1·10	...	...
	1872	86·36	...	0·86	...	4·85	6·58	16·66	15·56	15·65	22·31	3·80	...	...
	1873	...	0·10	0·10	0·85	3·70	3·23	21·82	10·42	16·88	4·02	0·27		...

SYLHET.

Rainfall		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December
Average years		154·31	0·13	1·47	4·65	14·36	23·57	31·72	28·49	25·39	16·95	9·69	0·66	0·13
(Orissa Famine)	1864	136·10	?	1·30	4·80	12·50	10·20	31·80	30·90	26·70	5·90	3·00	1·10	...
	1865	147·40	0·10	0·25	0·70	17·60	20·35	38·20	24·50	28·80	10·50	4·80	...	0·80
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	129·57	...	2·35	1·00	12·55	4·45	35·25	27·05	25·68	16·19	5·05	...	...
	1872	197·70	0·16	0·41	6·09	21·12	22·15	43·54	37·13	17·22	37·56	7·25	0·07	
	1873	...	0·83	1·67	5·86	11·55	5·12	34·14	23·09	25·94	17·45	0·75		...

CACHAR.

Rainfall.		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April	May	June.	July	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		119·72	0·44	3·05	6 03	12 20	15 09	18 37	24·39	16 85	14 32	8 25	0·82	0·62
(Orissa Famine) ...	1864	97 80?	?		3·70	13·20	9·20	7·00	25 10	17 20	9·70	4·60	3 10	.
	1865	158 73	...	0 40	6·60	7·40	20·95	35·26	52·17	20·77	5·50	7·78	2·00	5·09
(Rajpootana Famine) ...	1868	112·09	...	0·60	2·00	17 25	6 85	18·80	16·70	15·30	16 05	9·45	..	..
	1872	124·44	0·87	1·28	10·72	14 67	15·89	13·67	19·02	17·53	17·56	12 38	0·04	0·11
	1873	..	1·04	2·50	7·48	5·47	6·80	22·42	23 81	13·63	10·72	8·13*		..

* Up to 25th.

PATNA DIVISION

PATNA.

Rainfall	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years	37 01	0·63	0·80	0·25	0·44	1·13	6·59	10 37	7·25	7·42	2 55	0·00	0·06
(Orissa Famine) .. . 1864	.....	..	...	...	..	...	..	.	.	..	..	..	..
1865	.....	...	...	..	...	..	..	.	.		.	..	...
(Rajpootana Famine) . 1868	26·62	0·88	2·03	0·30	0·70	2·00	5·06	5·73	5·86	9·42	0 04	..	...
1872	31·17	2·02	0 85	0·02	..	1·16	4·88	8·15	5·54	7·07	1·53	.	..
1873	.....	0·19	0·02	0·80	0·10	0 13	3·41	13·04	11·78	0·94	*	.	...

GYA.

Average years	42·02	0·93	0·63	0·56	0·00	0·86	6·32	12·34	10·14	7·17	3·34	0·05	0·08
(Orissa Famine)... ... 1864	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	..
1865	.....	...	..	..	..	...	...	...	..	.	...	..	...
(Rajpootana Famine) . 1868	.....	0·50	.	...	...	...	6·02	7·57	6·18	6·54	...	..	..
1872	32·13	0·43	1·81	...	0·75	0·15	1 64	10·67	9·82	5·48	1·38	..	.
1873	.....	0·17	...	0·94	...	0 30	1·52	18·44	10·01	4·13	..	..	..

SHAHABAD.

Average years	48·93	0·96	0·56	0·62	0·25	1·32	7·40	13·85	9·75	10·44	2·89	0·23	0·06
(Orissa Famine)... ... 1864	.....	...	0·90	...	...	...	?	4·00	4·60	8·32	...	2·50	..
1865	39·14	...	0·50	1·85	2·28	3·91	2·45	19·85	5·70	2·10	...	...	0·59
(Rajpootana Famine) .. 1868	27·44	1·24	0·67	0·65	0·38	1·52	5·40	3·10	7·88	6 20	0·40	..	.
1872	35·53	2·22	0·80	0·12	0·10	0·80	4·37	13·08	4 39	9·10	0·55	...	...
1873	.....	0·32	0·06	1·00	...	0·70	1·91	19·76	10·91	3·00	...	...	..

TIRHOOT.

Average years	44·47	0·82	0·57	0·55	0·45	2·13	6·02	10·98	9·98	8·84	3·56	0·03	..
(Orissa Famine) . .. 1864	.....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...
1865	.....	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) .. 1868	27·00	0·40	1·70	...	0·20	3·30	1·80	6·30	10·70	3·20	...	..	...
1872	50·57	2·10	0·26	0·20	0·32	4·82	3·70	16·70	9·65	11·20	1·70	...	...
1873	.....	2·20	...	2 20	0·60	...	3·99	10·11	7·11	2·82	...†		..

* Up to 25th.

† Up to 11th.

SARUN.

Rainfall	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December
Average years	37 87	0·78	0 48	0·41	0 53	1·29	6·34	9·39	8·36	7 45	2 78	0·02	
(Orissa Famine) 1864		..	0 74	0 20	..	?	2·69	?	8·96	7·00	..		
(Orissa Famine) 1865	34·34	0·15	0 76	1·72	2·00	1·66	1·80	16·33	6·27	3·55	.	0·15	
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	27·13	0·76	0·80	0 60	0·33	3·64	5·45	3·20	7 91	4·45			
1872	38·48	2 30	0·20	0·87	.	1 31	2·21	11 44	7·00	12 17	0·48	..	
1873	.	0·29	.	1 70	1·00	.	3 42	15·77	12 80	1 10	.*	..	

CHUMPARUN.

Average years	45·69	0·27	0·28	0·80	0·37	1·87	8·64	10·96	10·78	8·33	3·29	..	0 10
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	..	..	..	..
(Orissa Famine) 1865	....		..		.	..		.	.	..	...	..	.
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	25·60	.	...	0·70	..	...	2·50	4·70	15·50	2·20	..	...	...
1872	50·29	0·51	...	...	0·50	2 50	13 40	13·62	6 95	13·70	..	...	..
1873	.....	0·90	...	3·00	0·30	0·90	8·02	15 11	11·58	0·73	..		

* Up to 25th.

BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.

MONGHYR.

Rainfall.		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October	November	December.
Average years ...		40·04	0·42	0·63	0·51	0·45	1·55	5·92	10·96	7·75	7·92	5·77	0·05	0·11
(Orissa famine)	1864	41·92	0.73	0·02	0·05	.	0·80	2·50	24·60	7·60	5·10	0·50	...	
	1865	36·80	...	1·20	1·45	1·40	5·30	3·75	15·05	5·95	1·80		..	1·00
(Rajpootana famine) ...	1868	32·74	0·30	1·85	0·99	..	1·93	3·13	8·67	12·75	3·31	0·02	..	0·40
	1872	41·26	1·27	0·81	...	0·48	0·53	1·18	13·20	9·27	10·89	3·63	..	...
	1873	.....	0·34	0·03	1·07	0·18	1·12	2·63	13·30	15·32	3·68	...	...	...

BHAUGULPORE.

Average years ...		48·63	0·49	0·72	0·42	1·06	2·61	8·25	11·41	10·45	8·19	4·93	0·03	0·07
(Orissa famine) ...	1864	49·80	0·45	1·10	...	0·15	2·30	4·70	15·60	16·10	9·00	0·20	0·20	
	1865	34·85	0·15	0·80	1·50	3·60	9·45	6·10	17·15	16·00	0·20		.	0·90
(Rajpootana famine) ...	1868	40·39	0·21	1·24	0·24	...	5·78	5·41	12·24	18·21	6·06	.		..
	1872	33·98	0·21	0·27	...	1·78	0·79	5·44	8·43	6·21	6·57	4·28		
	1873	.....	0·40	...	0·60	0·60	0·15	5·37	11·07	6·68	3·67			

PURNEAH.

Average years ...		.....	...	...	...	..	.	.		.		..		
(Orissa famine) ...	1864	.....	...	...	..	...		...		...		.	.	
	1865	.....	...	...	...	..	...	..			.			
Rajpootana) famine) ...	1868	71·19	...	3·00	0.90	0·40	2·90	7·20	17·70	26·40	12·60	..	.	
	1872	60·21	1·20	0·04	...	0·80	1·98	14·29	17·19	7·76	10·89	5·46		
	1873	....	0·27	..	0·82	2·56	0·44	6·34	10·98	10·60	6·75	.		

SONTHAL PERGUNNAHS, DEOGHUR.

Average years ...		.....	...	...	...	..						.		
(Orissa famine) ...	1864	.....	...	...	...	..	.			.	.			
	1865	.....	...	...	...	.	...			...	..			
(Rajpootana famine) ...	1868	.....	...	...	...	..	...	.	...	.	..			
	1872	41·46	0·03	2·31	0·12	0·35	1·39	2·93	7·63	9·26	7·13	10·31		
	1873	.....	0·29	...	1·70	1·60	0·11	4·71	20·95	7·69	7·87	0·02	..	

ORISSA DIVISION.

CUTTACK.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years	54·25	0·45	0·01	1·02	1·66	1·67	9·89	11·21	10·54	9·01	6·81	1·07	0·61
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	52·81	0·10	0·05	0·10	1·40	3·23	17·13	10·12	8·92	9·69	1·96	...	...
1872	71·16	...	0·68	...	0·65	2·38	17·73	12·72	0·54	8·76	16·16	0·239	0·20
1873	...	...	...	2·71	1·66	1·12	2·98	10·55	10·07	6·27	2·54	...	

POOREE.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years	55·55	0·09	1·30	0·66	1·56	2·27	6·85	9·25	11·23	9·43	7·82	1·66	0·74
(Orissa Famine) ... 1864	39·80†	...	5·05	0·10	...	0·40	9·25	4·70	5·50	8·60	6·20	...	...
(Orissa Famine) ... 1865	36·30	...	1·80	0·80	...	15·00	5·60	4·80	5·60	5·20	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	50·97	0·05	3·60	0·07	1·70	5·40	11·00	10·90	12·90	5·05	0·30	...	...
1872	75·14	...	0·15	...	0·03	0·82	23·75	8·71	10·70	7·04	16·19	7·75	...
1873	...	...	...	1·11	0·85	4·10	2·58	8·51	15·81	9·21	12·53	...	...

BALASORE.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years	67·30	1·01	1·22	1·79	2·94	4·30	12·09	9·46	12·03	13·76	7·61	0·39	0·11
(Orissa Famine) ... 1864	63·95	...	0·55	3·80	1·90	9·80	3·00	15·15	15·75	7·90	6·10	...	...
(Orissa Famine) ... 1865	52·60	0·25	1·35	5·75	5·70	11·55	4·25	5·90	8·25	9.30	0·20	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	77·00	0·70	1·30	...	2·90	6·00	36·20	5·60	14·30	9·60	0·40	...	...
1872	71·92	...	2·97	...	0·77	3·06	12·13	14·27	10·96	13·97	11·97	0·82	1·27
1873	...	...	...	0.92	1·77	4·38	3·64	12·00	11·77	7·61	4·69*	...	...

* Up to 25th.

CHITTAGONG DIVISION.

Chittagong.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March	April	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October	November	December
Average years	105·79	0·29	1·30	1·40	5·08	8·76	22·62	21·95	22·02	13·06	7·03	3·79	0·48
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	.	5·60	20·44	26·38	40·09	5·45	12·03	0·86	.
(Orissa Famine) 1865	88·29	0·27	0·73	0·20	8·52	11·14	12·51	40·39	7·87	6·35	3·82	1·69	
(Rajpootana Famine) . 1868	...	..	...	...	..	...	..	...		.	...	...	...
1872	88·53	0·44	1·14	...	5·11	4·96	19·80	30·89	15·59	14·12	4·74	..	0·76
1873	.....	0·35	...	.	5·71	5·34	21·20	19·38	18·49	10·95	3·95	...	.

Noakhally.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March	April	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October	November	December
Average years	101·70	0·38	0·68	1·66	4·16	9·42	21·56	17·40	20·32	16·08	9·52	1·48	0·04
(Orissa Famine) 1864	95·66	...	..	1·48	2·71	8·11	23·75	18·73	15·42	21·15	5·00	0·20	..
(Orissa Famine) 1865	90·15	0·20	0·39	..	4·44	17·42	23·58	22·01	16·17	8·55	3·40		...
(Rajpootana Famine)... 1868	81·89	..		0·20	11·38	5·94	30·87	11·15	12·08	7·86	1·24	1·17	..
1872	110·10	0·59	0·14	0·44	5·86	14·44	16·22	22·04	23·35	20·71	5·01	0·05	0·07
1873	.	0·01	.	4·83	8·25	0·66	19·30	28·39	25·84	11·61	7·38	.	...

Tipperah.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March	April	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October	November	December
Average years	93·50	0·61	0·94	2·28	8·17	11·59	19·14	17·50	14·03	10·57	6·97	1·03	0·07
(Orissa Famine) ... 1864	98·10	..	1·15	4·10	4·75	11·40	16·45	18·50	15·46	11·40	13·25	1·85	...
(Orissa Famine) ... 1865	106·25	0·35	2·35	2·60	9·00	13·85	34·20	28·55	6·20	8·00	1·15	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	82·75	.	2·41	0·57	5·12	7·15	22·99	7·96	13·16	15·32	1·87	2·39	..
1872	81·81	0·36	1·56	2·15	0·24	7·58	4·69	25·78	14·61	9·10	0·51	0·10	0·26
1873	.....	...	0·05	1·71	5·53	0·38	18·14	9·72	25·65	4·64	0·35	.	...

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March	April	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October	November	December
Average years	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) .. 1864	.....	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	...	..	...	...	..
(Orissa Famine) .. 1865	.....	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	..	...	...	..	...
(Rajpootana Famine) . 1868	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	..	..	..	.
1872	102·16	0·50	0·62	0·83	5·79	13·50	10·79	31·79	15·65	10·14	12·43	..	0·32
1873	.....	0·40	..	0·10	3·96	4·94	16·69	13·95	19·27	9·10	4·94	..	..

Hill Tipperah.

Rainfall.	Total.	January	February.	March	April	May.	June.	July.	August	September	October	November	December
Average years	.....	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	..
(Orissa Famine) ... 1864	.....	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) ... 1865	.....	.	..	.	...	..	...	...	.	...	...	...	..
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	.. ..	.	..	...	.	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...
1872	.. ..	.	..	...	...	..	.		4·40	9·06	7·98	...	0·45
1873	.....	0·29	0·07	1·59	0·27	5·35	11·35	5·27	18·23	7·26	1·12	...	

CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION.

HAZARIBAUGH.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	50·37	0·29	0·46	0·71	0·51	1·27	3·58	13·72	12·93	8·15	3·50	0·12	0·07
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	45·31	0·26	0·85	0·64	...	1·54	14·92	9·66	11·80	9·11	0·53	...	...
1872	35·10	0·24	0·75	0·14	0·81	0·02	2·42	7·99	11·57	6·98	3·68	...	...
1873	...	...	...	0·94	0·11	0·22	2·20	23·03	20·32	12·07	0·15	...	...

LOHARDUGGA.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	43·29	0·37	0·95	1·53	0·62	1·48	7·85	10·37	9·71	6·91	3·27	0·13	0·10
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	2·60	2·60	1·20	0·90	2·90	15·70	12·20	?	?	1·40	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	38·65	0·50	2·50	1·95	0·40	4·20	5·10	11·40	5·30	4·30	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	45·69	0·75	0·65	0·50	...	2·15	10·72	5·45	7·50	16·35	1·62	...	...
1872	48·99	...	1·46	0·10	1·39	1·62	10·54	10·34	9·00	10·44	3·86	0·24	...
1873	...	...	0·94	1·59	0·50	1·21	2·26	17·59	13·93	12·20	0·63	...	...

SINGBHOOM.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872	51·16	...	0·25	0·17	1·90	1·50	9·52	11·65	7·31	12·52	5·66	0·05	0·54
1873	...	0·19	...	2·32	1·65	2·66	3·42	11·47	10·01	5·94	0·88	...	...

MANBHOOM.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	44·64	0·27	0·61	0·70	0·80	1·29	9·59	8·84	10·86	6·49	4·60	0·09	0·21
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) ... 1868	42·1	...	0·90	...	...	0·40	17·70	4·50	9·50	8·00	1·50	...	...
1872	48·22	...	1·08	...	1·74	2·59	12·89	9·51	8·01	5·19	6·88	0·53	...
1873	...	...	...	2·36	1·78	1·17	1·70	19·83	12·50	3·02	0·15	...	...

ASSAM DIVISION.

GOWALPARAH.

Rainfall.		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		98·75	0·37	0·58	1·71	4·93	12·97	26·88	20·19	12·33	13·00	5·33	0·53	0·13
(Orissa Famine)	1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	87·90	...	0·72	0·76	3·41	4·67	20·91	19·23	16·92	14·34	1·05	...	...
	1872	105·14	0·83	0·07	0·76	3·20	12·12	35·15	13·21	11·40	23·79	4·61	...	...
	1873	...	...	...	2·42	10·29	7·85	21·40	10·84	8·32	7·00	...	...	...

KAMROOP.

Rainfall.		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		70·12	0·60	1·30	1·49	6·65	10·62	13·60	12·18	11·54	8·29	3·33	0·37	0·09
(Orissa Famine)	1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1872	79·09	1·70	0·43	2·11	2·86	11·66	12·14	15·54	15·84	12·63	6·20	0·23	...
	1873	...	0·11	0·53	2·97	5·96	7·91	10·57	9·94	6·78	4·92	0·32†		...

DURRUNG.

Rainfall.		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		76·82	0·55	0·96	1·19	6·97	10·36	14·29	15·33	13·42	9·09	3·09	0·87	0·70
(Orissa Famine)	1864	63·60	...	...	...	5·40	8·20	5·00	14·90	9·20	12·50	3·00	0·40	5·60
	1865	76·70	...	0·20	0·40	2·80	15·10	18·40	21·80	7·90	4·00	3·00	1·10	2·00
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	60·69	0·10	1·79	0·50	7·23	2·76	12·53	10·43	16·48	6·94	0·77	0·03	0·88
	1872	78·50	0·45	0·42	2·21	4·02	11·28	6·94	14·36	15·37	14·52	3·00	0·24	0·09
	1873	...	0·40	0·71	2·57	4·88	6·82	16·53	18·74	6·36	6·92	1·66‡		.

NOWGONG.

Rainfall.		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		87·52	1·25	1·46	2·86	6·70	12·13	12·66	16·44	16·07	12·40	4·00	0·58	0·22
(Orissa Famine)	1864	...	...	.	...	3·50	?	5·00	16·50	4·00	12·00	5·50	1·00	.
	1865	...	...	...	...	3·00	2·00	8·00	14·50	12·00	11·00	..	.	...
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	98·20	1·00	1·30	0·60	3·40	9·50	16·60	19·50	17·60	12·70	4·00	.	..
	1872	133·07	2·40	3·39	4·88	14·65	24·91	13·52	26·53	23·59	13·72	5·28	0·20	...
	1873	...	0·05	0·93	2·38	4·12	6·07	12·64	25·27	11·79	7·31	0·05§	.	...

SEEBSAUGOR.

Rainfall.		Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November	December.
Average years		94·16	1·02	2·48	4·02	10·08	11·01	15·01	16·34	15·79	11·37	4·92	1·46	0·66
(Orissa Famine)	1864	121·70	2·20	4·10	4·60	12·30	13·10	24·30	29·00	12·80	14·00	3·40	0·40	1·20
	1865	75·90	3·60	2·70	1·30	19·50	9·00	13·30	8·80	11·50	4·40	3·50	0·10	1·00
(Rajpootana Famine)	1868	108·90	...	4·20	2·40	16·00	4·80	22·60	22·30	20·60	13·00	1·70	0·80	0·50
	1872	103·67	0·84	3·79	6·02	13·99	8·71	6·70	10·15	19·34	13·93	3·54	1·22	0·33
	1873	..	1·21	2·56	7·77	7·93	9·83	12·32	10·70	10·19	9·64	1·17‖	.	..

* Up to 25th.
† Up to 25th.
‡ Up to 25th.
§ Up to 25th.
‖ Up to 25th.

LUCKIMPORE.

Rainfall.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Average years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872	112·18	1·65	2·37	5·35	14·70	9·30	10·70	21·84	20·63	19·02	5·05	1·17	0·49
1873	...	0·85	4·15	3·47	8·22	8·95	18·18	20·13	14·63	8·69	3·45*	...	...

NAGA HILLS.

Average years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872	49·05	0·10	0·44	1·55	2·74	1·59	10·14	12·40	8·75	5·20	7·04	0·10	...
1873	...	0·48	1·29	1·78	5·78	2·94	7·65	12·41	6·00	3·33	1·81†	...	...

KHASI AND JYNTEAH HILLS.

Average years ...	77·94	0·04	0·51	0·82	3·07	9·90	11·96	15·80	10·11	18·39	5·78	1·48	0·08
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine)... 1868	71·30	...	1·80	1·90	2·20	9·00	13·40	14·00	7·80	17·30	3·90	0·05	0·35
1872	81·86	0·01	0·40	0·01	1·85	8·01	8·80	24·77	8·29	25·38	4·32	.	0·02
1873	...	...	0·52	2·43	5·30	5·84	13·44	6·19	13·15	5·74	0·70‡	.	...

GARO HILLS.

Average years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.
(Orissa Famine) 1864	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Orissa Famine) 1865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Rajpootana Famine) 1868	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872	111·30	...	0·23	...	3·40	15·59	17·62	25·10	12·27	28·69	8·21	0·10	...
1873	...	0·43	0·34	3·23	9·59	5·71	24·91	17·26	13·89	10·00	0·03	...	...

* Up to 25th
† Up to 18th.
‡ Up to 25th

Circular No. 79.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL,

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO ALL COLLECTORS.

Calcutta, the 15th November 1873.

SIR,

THE Lieutenant-Governor has always had great misgivings about many of the entries in the official returns of prices current, and at any rate now that special importance attaches to these returns, and they are to be published weekly, he asks the most particular attention of local and supervising officers to their preparation. Every officer who signs or receives such a return should scrutinize it with the aid both of his own common sense and general knowledge, and by comparison of the figures. He should not compile it or pass it mechanically if the figures are at variance with the general knowledge of the state of the country and the markets, which it is to be hoped that all District Officers now from day to day have, and if the entries seem in any degree meagre and discrepant with one another, they should be sifted. The responsible officer should be satisfied that the statement really fairly represents the actual practical state of the markets.

It is no doubt difficult to establish exact uniformity of system, since there are so many varieties and qualities of grain. As a rule, the price of grain should be that of the particular quality of any grain, which is most sold at the place. It should be the retail price for fair quantities, say 10 or 15 seers sold for ready money. Say the quantity that any man going into the bazar with one rupee in his hand can obtain. There should be no attempt to strike an average of different places. The actual price in the bazars of the head-quarters stations of any other specified places for which returns are rendered should be given. Any information regarding outlying bazars may be given in a note. Great care should be taken that the old rate of an article which is not commonly sold in the market is not allowed to remain stereotyped from week to week. If an article is not commonly had in the market, it should not be given merely because it once was there, and no new rate has been received. The officer who compiles the return must be responsible that every entry represents a price at which the article specified is and can be bought. In the very last published statement of prices current are some entries which greatly excite the Lieutenant-Governor's suspicions, *e. g.*, barley seems to be fixed at 30 seers per rupee at Rungpore week after week, a price which seems incredible under present circumstances. Barley is also fixe at 23 seers 12 chittacks in the 24-Pergunnahs. The Bancoorah return gives bajra at 25 seers and jowaree at 30 seers. The Lieutenant-Governor suspects the first is unknown at Bancoorah, and the second can hardly be so cheap. Indian-corn, like barley, is fixed at 30 seers at Rungpore, a rate the Lieutenant-Governor does not believe possible.

It is hoped then that these things will be narrowly looked into in future, and that the weekly returns now ordered will give the most reliable index to the state of prices that it is possible to obtain.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

B. M. D.

No. 3684.

FROM THE OFFG. SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL,

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, dated 28th November / issued November 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3545, dated the 21st November 1873, and under instructions from His Excellency the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor directs me to forward copies of the third weekly* Special Narrative (with appendices and enclosures enumerated below) regarding the failure of crops and the anticipated scarcity in Behar and parts of Bengal.

* Up to 28th November 1873.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES.

A.—The Lieutenant-Governor's note of the 25th November on the famines of 1769 and 1865.

B.—Movement of food-grains.

C.—Manuscript copy of Bengal Government letter, No 28P.S., dated 22nd November, giving reasons for the Lieutenant-Governor's urgently recommending immediate import of foreign grain.

D.—Letter No. 3249, dated 24th November 1873, from the Government of India, requesting information regarding the distribution of foreign rice.
Reply to above, Bengal letter No 3626, dated 25th November 1873

E.—Bengal Government letter No 3057, dated 24th November 1873, directing advances to be made to ordinary cultivators for digging mud wells.
Bengal Government letter No. 3055, on the same subject, to the Board of Revenue.

F.—Letter from Honorary Secretary to the British Indian Association and Bengal Government, letter No 3638, dated 26th November 1873, in answer thereto

ENCLOSURES.

1.—Rainfall and crop return for Bengal for the week ending the 22nd November 1873.

2.—Prices-current return for Bengal for the week ending the 22nd November 1873.

3.—Circular No. 87, dated 24th November 1873, requiring a fortnightly Narrative from districts instead of a weekly one, and giving list of reports called for.

4.—Bengal Government letter No. 3569, dated 22nd November 1873, forwarding printed lists of relief works previously determined upon (without enclosures).

5.—Bengal Government resolution, dated 25th November 1873.

6.—Circular No. 81, dated 19th November, asking for particular estimate of food-stocks in the country.

7.—Bengal Government letter No. 3566, dated 22nd November, asking for particulars of the spring crops.

W J. McN,

No. 3683

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL
IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta — *dated 28th November* / *issued November* — 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3554, dated the 21st November 1873, I am directed to forward herewith three copies of the third Special Narrative (with appendices and enclosures enumerated below) of the drought of 1873, from the 22nd November to the 28th November 1873, inclusive.

2. Copies have been despatched by this day's mail to His Grace the Secretary of State for India.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES.

A.—The Lieutenant-Governor's note of the 25th November on the famines of 1769 and 1865.
B.—Movement of food-grains.
C.—Manuscript copy of Bengal Government letter, No. 28P.S., dated 22nd November, giving reasons for the Lieutenant-Governor's urgently recommending immediate import of foreign grain.
D.—Letter No 3219, dated 24th November 1873, from the Government of India, requesting information regarding the distribution of foreign rice.
Reply to above, Bengal letter No. 3626, dated 25th November 1873.
E.—Bengal Government letter No. 3057, dated 24th November 1873, directing advances to be made to ordinary cultivators for digging mud wells.
Bengal Government letter No. 3055, on the same subject, to the Board of Revenue.
F.—Letter from Honorary Secretary to the British Indian Association and Bengal Government, letter No 3638, dated 26th November 1873, in answer thereto.

ENCLOSURES.

1.—Rainfall and crop return for Bengal for the week ending the 22nd November 1873.
2.—Prices-current return for Bengal for the week ending the 22nd November 1873.
3.—Circular No. 87, dated 24th November 1873, requiring a fortnightly Narrative from districts instead of a weekly one, and giving list of reports called for.
4.—Bengal Government letter No. 3569, dated 22nd November 1873, forwarding printed lists of relief works previously determined upon (without enclosures).
5.—Bengal Government resolution, dated 25th November 1873.
6.—Circular No. 81, dated 19th November, asking for particular estimate of food-stocks in the country.
7.—Bengal Government letter No. 3566, dated 22nd November, asking for particulars of the spring crops.

W. J. McN.

Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 in Bengal from 22nd November to 28th November 1873.

(1.) The general prospects of the season, as disclosed in the latest reports, are perhaps a little better than previous reports might have led us to fear. Many of the reports and opinions now given are results of actual inspections by experienced European and Native officials, fully qualified to observe and to weigh what they see; others are still not what they should be. Especially, it may be noted, that the state of the spring crops, which had in many cases more or less germinated where sown, is better than it had been supposed to be, and gives better prospects of their surviving if later rain falls. In the Patna, Bhaugulpore, and Rajshahye Divisions, the late rice crop, the main staple of the country, is said to be as bad as it had been previously feared to be. It is hoped that if rain comes in December, the spring crop will not be permanently injured by the insects which are said now to infest the wheat fields, for the young plants will shoot up again.

In regard to the stocks of food in the hands of the people, the Commissioner of Patna reports the determination of the ryots of Tirhoot not to sell their grain consequent on their remembrances of the suffering of 1866. He adds that one of the chief causes of the great distress in 1865-66 was the total depletion of stocks, caused by the ryots being tempted by the high prices to break in on their stores of grain. In Orissa, it is believed that since the famine of 1866 the people have been much more provident, and that they have now good stocks.

A note by the Lieutenant-Governor is appended,* comparing the prospects of the present year, as far as they are known, with the condition of affairs in 1865, and previous to the great famine of 1770.

* Appendix A

(2.) There has been no rain. The following note by the Meteorological Reporter shows that the weather is not altogether such as is usual at this time of year: "During the past week (and indeed since the rains ceased) the general direction of the wind has been more or less easterly. This is not usual in November. The average direction in this month is north-north-west, that of the land wind; whereas north-easterly winds, such as we have had of late, are in great measure diverted winds from the south. As a consequence, there has been more cloud about the sky than is usual at this time of year, and during the last day or two the sky is quite over-cast, looking more like rain than has been the case for many weeks past. There has been a very small rise in the barometer the last two days, but in Calcutta rain falls with a barometer rising after its depression." Rain at this time of year would be unusual, but as long as other meteorological phenomena remain anomalous, we may perhaps still hope for anomalous rain. The weekly weather and crops return is enclosed.

(3.) From the weekly return of prices-current enclosed herewith, it will be seen that, though in some districts they have fallen, generally there is an upward tendency. The new rice will soon be in the market. Two districts, Bancoorah and Midnapore, already quote new rice at a lower figure than old rice.

These quotations can hardly be considered to afford very stable hope, for in 1865-66 prices fell during the winter months, and rose again after February. The lowest rate for the commonest kind of rice is to-day in Calcutta Rs. 3-7 per maund.

A short note showing the movement of food-grains, since the date of last Narrative, is added in Appendix B.

(4.) The difficulty of transporting large quantities of grain in this country being apparent, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it necessary to urge upon the Government of India the necessity of now laying in such stores as are likely to be required for relief works before pressure arises, and while means of transport are available. Such importations of grain as can be obtained he would, as far as possible, make now. If all our supplies should come together, he anticipated a ruinous block. Letter No. 281P.S., dated 22nd November, in which the Lieutenant-Governor submitted this and some other points for the consideration of the Government of India, is hereto appended. (Appendix C.)

In view of the great need for testing and using, at as early a date as possible, the means of transport from railway stations and rivers into the interior of the distressed districts, the Lieutenant-Governor has despatched from Calcutta to Patna ghât for the Gunduk embankment,—to Rajmehal, Kooshtea, and Goalundo for the Northern Bengal Railway works,—and to Arrah and Buxar for the Soane Canal works, all the foreign rice which has come to Calcutta on Government account; and he has, as above mentioned, urged that further importations of grain from beyond the sea should be hastened.

As it was the wish of the Government of India that rice bought by the Imperial Government should, for the present at any rate, be stored at imperial works, the Lieutenant Governor was very desirous to buy a certain amount of grain in Bengal for storage on local works. Immediately on receiving His Excellency the Viceroy's final orders, Sir George Campbell began to buy rice as quietly as possible through an agent in Calcutta, and he also caused inquiries to be made in Dacca, in the Backergunge district, and at Chittagong, where prices were at that time (early in November) said to be low. The agents employed in Calcutta and Bengal assured the Lieutenant-Governor that, in the then delicate state of the market, it would not be possible for Government to buy largely without raising the price greatly and to some extent paralysing private trade. From Dacca and Backergunge advices were received that the surplus stocks of last year's rice were finding their way to Calcutta and elsewhere, that it would be possible to buy only in dribblets, and that there was no mart at which Government could secure a large quantity of grain at one time.

From Chittagong it was reported that rice for export came into market with the high tides once a fortnight only from Noacolly and Backergunge, that there was little or no exportable surplus in Chittagong itself, and that large orders for rice could be executed only by European firms, which held large orders for export beyond the sea at high prices, and would sell to Government only at those prices. For a small parcel of rice (only 1,300 maunds) which was loaded on the Government steamers transferred for service in the Rajshahye Division, Government had to pay three rupees a maund, or very nearly the rate then ruling in Calcutta. The chief European exporting firm themselves stated that they had deliberately run up the price a rupee a maund at the last fortnightly arrival of rice-boats with the view of attracting boats from the rice districts. The Lieutenant-Governor felt that, as Chittagong was after all only a back-door for the export of Bengal rice, he had better not buy there for Government, and thus attract to Chittagong the surplus of Noacolly and Backergunge, most of which might, under ordinary circumstances, be attracted by the Calcutta prices, and would be carried along the canals and inland rivers to the Calcutta market. The officer charged with buying rice for Government at Goalundo and Kooshtea reported that there were no large stocks to be bought anywhere, but that a healthy private trade was going on between East Bengal and Rajshahye in small boats, from which rice was eagerly bought by the residents along the rivers. He earnestly represented that if Government were to intervene as a large purchaser this trade would be paralysed. It thus seemed clear that Government could not buy rice largely in the interior of Bengal without disturbing the natural flow of the trade, and keeping it away from Calcutta dealers who would supply the distressed districts. The Government agent in Calcutta had for similar reasons exercised similar caution, and

had up to the 24th November, bought only 30,000 maunds of rice for Government in Calcutta. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, saw that it was absolutely necessary to get a certain quantity of rice in Calcutta for immediate despatch to local works, and he has therefore during the last week bought 140,000 maunds more of Bengal rice in Calcutta at the current rates; more than half this quantity has been despatched or is now under despatch for storage on local works in all these distressed divisions, and the remainder the Lieutenant-Governor is keeping in reserve for compliance with future emergent indents from the distressed districts. Sir George Campbell hopes that this supply will keep the transport agency at work until the Orissa* rice comes into Calcutta, and the grain ordered from the North-Western Provinces comes into the Behar districts. We have been advised that the first despatch of Balasore rice will reach Calcutta before the 7th December.

* See paragraph 7 of last week's Narrative.

In regard to the price at which rice has been laid in, it may be noted that the rice bought in Calcutta will stand the Government in from Rs. 3-3 to Rs. 3-15 per maund; that the Orissa rice will be delivered at the jetties in Calcutta at Rs. 2-12 per maund; that the Burmah rice will cost from Rs. 2-11 for the first batch to Rs. 3-2½ for the later batches. The rice, wheat, maize, barley, millet, and other grains, of which about 125,000† maunds have been ordered, mainly from Northern India, for delivery in Behar, will stand the Government in from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a maund all round at the railway and river stations in Patna and Behar. It may thus be roughly stated that up to the present date (28th November) about six lakhs of maunds‡ of grain have been bought or ordered by the Government of Bengal and its officers; that three-quarters of this amount will be delivered in the distressed districts before the end of December; and that this grain will cost the Government about Rs. 3¼ per maund all round.

† *Note*—30,000 maunds of Indian-corn have been ordered by the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore from the North-Western Provinces; 30,000 maunds of barley; 30,000 maunds of millet, &c, from the North-Western Provinces, and 25,000 maunds of rice by the Commissioner of Patna; and 10,000 maunds of rice from Backergunge by the Commissioner of Rajshahye.

‡ About twenty-two thousand tons

(5.) In letter No. 3004, dated the 14th November 1873, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department, attention was called to the subject of providing fodder for cattle during the months of scarcity. On the routes where it is expected bullock-trains may be organized the local officers are to form depôts of fodder.

It is well known that roots and vegetables form an important food-staple in this country, and in times of scarcity they, in some measure, supplement the failure of grain. Local officers have been directed to promote vegetable cultivation, and, where advisable, to buy seeds for distribution.

In letter No. 3249, dated November 24th, the Government of India asked for information regarding the plan devised by the Government of Bengal for the distribution of rice imported from beyond sea, and the places where it is proposed to store it in readiness for actual consumption. In reply, the Lieutenant-Governor detailed the arrangements which had been made for transporting foreign rice for storage at the Gunduk embankment, and on the Northern Bengal Railway works, and also what had been done in connection with the supply of the Soane Canal Works and local relief works. Copy of this letter, No. 3626, dated November 25th, written in reply to the Government of India, is added hereto in Appendix D. Particular attention is requested to this letter, as it contains information which is necessary to complete this Narrative.

(6.) The orders already issued calling for information and reports from local officers being contained in many different circulars, some original, some supplementary, it has been thought advisable to circulate a precise list of them. Accordingly, circular No. 87, dated November 24th, has been issued, reviewing previous orders, and defining exactly what reports are required from local officers, reducing them to the lowest possible limits, and requiring a fortnightly instead of a weekly Narrative. Copy of this circular is annexed.

In circular No. 80, dated November 17th, paragraph 7, it was stated that the answers received to circular No. 27 of June 1872, which called for lists of works which might suitably be undertaken in times of scarcity, would be printed and circulated, so that Divisional and District Officers might have by them lists of the roads and other works which have been selected, estimated for, and kept as possible relief works. Copies of these lists have now been circulated to officers of distressed districts in order that they may know not only what is proposed in their own districts, but also what is proposed in neighbouring districts. In circulating these lists, the Lieutenant-Governor made certain remarks which are contained in letter No. 3569, dated November 22nd, annexed hereto.

The rules for making advances to landlords and tenants to enable them to improve their properties under Act XXVI of 1871 have been revised. The chief points in which restrictions have been relaxed are these—

I. Certain preliminary formalities which cause delay, &c., are dispensed with.

II. Stamp and process fees are no longer required.

III. Sub-divisional officers who were not before allowed to make advances can now do so up to a limit of Rs. 250 in each case; and the Collector's limit has been raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000.

IV. No interest is charged for advances under Rs. 500 during the first year.

In the case of loans to Municipalities, the rules under Act XXIV of 1871 have also been revised, and the Government may now authorize a loan and the commencement of work, and may advance money in anticipation of the formal publication of the application as required by the standing rules.

It was noted in the last Narrative that the Opium Agent of Behar had received authority to make advances for the construction of common unmetalled wells. The Lieutenant-Governor has wished to extend the operation of this order to ryots who have not agreements to cultivate opium, and has authorized the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore to make advances for wells outside the provisions of Act XXVI of 1871, and to employ the officers of the Opium Department in making the necessary arrangements.

Letters containing these orders are annexed in Appendix E.

The Commissioner of Burmah has made a definite offer to employ six thousand men on public works for six months, intimating that, on the expiry of that period, he can give the emigrants land to settle upon, and that he will also contribute something towards the cost of their transport. The Commissioner of Patna has been addressed on the subject of emigration to British Burmah, and has been asked whether the people would go, and how he would propose to organize such emigration.

As regards emigration to Assam, it has been pointed out that coolies cannot be expected to find their own way up the Brahmaputra river, the navigation of which is so difficult for native boats. It is therefore under consideration whether it would not be possible to place a Government steamer on the river to carry emigrants from Dhoobree, where the system of roads devised to promote emigration from North Behar to Assam abuts on the Brahmaputra. The Commissioner of Patna has issued orders that grain shall be supplied to emigrants on the line of march at cost price by the officers employed in the construction of the roads from the stores placed at their disposal for relief works. These orders had become necessary, as it was ascertained that laborers who had started from the Sarun district on their annual migration in search of work to Northern Bengal had returned to their homes alarmed at the high cost of living on the road. Every facility will be given for emigration from Northern Behar through Northern Bengal to Assam. Offers for coolies have already been received from planters.

It was mentioned in a former Narrative that the rates of freight charged for food-grains on the railways had been reduced to one-eighth of a pie per

mile. It has now been found necessary to exclude all food-grains from the Upper Provinces and Behar, consigned to stations below Luckeeserai and Bhaugulpore, from the operation of the reduction, inasmuch as advantage was taken of it by exporters and others to carry grain away from the districts in which it is most wanted.

In a Resolution dated 27th November, herewith enclosed, the Lieutenant-Governor prescribes the procedure to be followed in applying for, and prosecuting relief works.

(7.) Various circular orders have been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor since the date of last Narrative. As it is very important to obtain as accurate information as is available regarding the extent of food-stocks still remaining in the country, he has directed district officers to make special inquiries as to the stocks held both by grain dealers and by individual ryots, and to submit the information they may procure with their weekly Narratives.

In order to supplement the ordinary establishments, the Lieutenant-Governor has invited pensioners to resume work during the present emergency, receiving extra allowances proportioned to the work that may be allotted to them.

It has been found necessary to issue some further instructions as to the nature of the information regarding the cold weather crop which is to be submitted with the district Narratives. Local officers have been reminded that the cold weather crops, in their early stages, possess a wonderful vitality, and if they germinate in the least, can well wait for rain at Christmas or later.

Enquiries have been made as to the time occupied by native boats in navigating the Ganges from Goalundo to Patna at various times of the year, and the facilities for, or difficulties in, navigation, and the Commissioners of the distressed tracts have been ordered to report specially on the means of transport available in their divisions.

(8.) Some reports have been received from the Commissioners since the date of the last Narrative. The scheme for connecting Northern Behar with Assam by a system of roads through Northern Bengal has, so far as the Patna Division is concerned, been finally settled. The works have not actually been commenced on this scheme, but the lines have been pegged out and all arrangements for beginning have been made. From another report submitted by the Commissioner of Patna, it appears that, with the exception of the case of the Hutwah estate, in the Sarun district, mentioned in a former Narrative, relief works have already become necessary only in one corner of the Patna district, where a new road has been commenced. With these two exceptions no relief works properly so called have as yet been opened in Patna Division, but the annual repairs to the district roads are being pushed on. It is satisfactory that the Commissioner is able to report that as yet no symptom of increase of crimes has shown itself.

A few other points are worthy of note in connection with the Patna Division. It was ordered that local officers should, where possible, effect the purchase of grain for relief works through local traders. It has been found impossible to persuade the grain dealers of Behar to undertake any import business. Even the large dealers of Revelgunge on the Gogra declare that they cannot take up an import trade from the North-West Provinces; it is not their custom, and they do not understand it. The attempt to import grain through local dealers may be said to have so far failed.

Some Collectors have complained of requisitions for carriage for troops being made at a time of so much pressure. The matter has been separately reported to the Government of India.

It is reported from the Behar sub-division of the Patna district that the petty grain-dealers in the small villages have shut up their shops, and that people who want to buy have to go to the town of Behar to do so. This difficulty has been in some measure overcome by itinerant dealers, who have

taken to perambulating the country with loaded bullocks with imported grain, selling their grain from the sack's mouth.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has submitted his proposals for relief works with a list of roads, on some of which work has actually commenced, while others are kept in hand till necessity for opening them shall arise. He has also chosen places as food depôts and possible relief centres. His plans have been provisionally sanctioned. It was noted in the last Narrative that work had been commenced in the Soopool sub-division of Bhâugulpore; the satisfactory intelligence has since been received that laborers do not come forward freely. In Monghyr one road has been started as a relief work, and the people have taken the work up willingly, though not in large numbers.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore also has failed in his efforts to purchase food through local traders.

It was mentioned in the last Narrative that works had been opened in the Rajshahye Division. Some details of works in progress in Dinagepore and Rajshahye have since been received demi-officially. On the subject of purchasing grain through local traders, the Commissioner of Rajshahye remarks: "I must say from all I have been able to learn the people who trade for export will not take up an import trade, and few have the capital to do so. They say it is not their custom, that they do not understand the business or know the markets."

The steamer *Teesta* is waiting at Kooshtea for her flats, which have left Calcutta and are being towed round by the steamer *Sir William Peel;* the steamer *Flame*, with the flats loaded with rice which she brought from Chittagong, has left Goalundo for the Oorasagur river.

(9.) The India General Steam Navigation Company having offered their flotilla for the purpose of promoting trade in grain, and having asked Government to bear half the cost of transport, as it does in the case of Guaranteed Railways, the Lieutenant-Governor has asked for particulars regarding the routes the steamers would take, and the rates of freight the Company would charge.

It has been arranged to lay down at once a line of telegraph to Julpigoree from Kooshtea along the line chosen for the Northern Bengal Railway.

(10.) The British Indian Association have addressed the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the impending scarcity. The Association is inclined to take a somewhat gloomy view of the prospect before us, and suggests various measures which it hopes the Government will take in hand. It does not say what measures it intends to take itself as representing the landholders of Bengal; nor does it suggest what measures should be taken by landholders generally for the relief of their tenants. It strongly advocates the prevention of the export of grain. The Lieutenant-Governor's reply is annexed, (Appendix G).

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 28th November 1873.

D. E.J. and others.

Appendix A *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873, *from 22nd November to 28th November* 1873.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

NOTE.

In the absence of any reliable information about stocks, and seeing the want of precision in our information about the yield of present crops, I have thought that a comparison with former years of scarcity would be the best index to our chances for the future. I believe, however, that the only years in respect of which we have any information admitting of comparison are 1769-70 and 1865-66. In regard to the former our information is necessarily very imperfect. In regard to the latter we accurately know the result, but we do not know with any accuracy the yield of the crops which led to that result. This is nowhere brought together in any detail. A good deal of information may, however, be gleaned here and there; and that is being done. Our inquiries are not complete, but I note what I can draw from the information we have so far got.

In all Bengal failures the immediate cause has been not so much general want of rain as the premature cessation of the rains. That was so in 1769 and 1865, and is so in 1873.

We know nothing of Orissa in 1769-70 (it was not then British). That was, as is well known, far the worst part of the country in 1865-66; in 1873 it is good. We must treat Orissa as abnormal.

As regards all other parts of these provinces, we may state the conditions which usually prevail. The south-eastern sea-board, Backergunge, &c., and the extreme east, Sylhet and Cachar, have never been known to fail through want of rain (when they suffer it is from floods); the other eastern districts—Dacca, Mymensing and Tipperah—though failure of rain may cause short crops, have never failed very disastrously from this cause.

In Central and Western Bengal, failure of the rains has produced scarcity and famine, but I should say that the failure has never been so extreme as in the northern districts.

Failure of the rains especially affects the districts of Northern Bengal and Behar lying along the foot of the Himalaya, where the rainfall is generally large, where rice is the chief product, but where the particular phase of the monsoon which causes these disasters seems always to lead to an extreme diminution of the rainfall. This was especially the case in 1769 and 1873, and to a less extreme degree in 1865.

All Behar, being dry, suffers more from drought than Bengal. It has generally happened that two successive short years have produced scarcity in Behar; whereas I do not find the record of two successive years of great drought in Bengal.

In comparing the years of failure of rain and consequent scarcity I will take—

1. The season of failure.
2. The antecedent circumstances which mitigated or aggravated it.
3. The succeeding circumstances which may mitigate or aggravate it.

Orissa, I have said, we must put aside as following no rule yet ascertained. It may be considered, as regards Bengal, a country beyond sea, the communication being by sea.

Taking then Bengal and Behar, the course of the season of 1769 seems to have been very like that of 1873. There was much failure of rain and of the crops in Central and Western Bengal, extreme failure in North Bengal and Behar, only a certain shortness of crops in the eastern districts, and no failure on the south-eastern seaboard.

In 1865 the failures in Central, Western and Eastern Bengal taken together may have been about equal to that in the present year. I should not yet like to say confidently which was worst; in neither year was or is the failure in these tracts of the most extreme character. In 1865 the failure in North Bengal and Behar was not so bad as the extreme failure of 1873.

On the whole, we cannot say with any precision that the season 1769 was worse or better than that of 1873: we have not sufficient information; the one somewhat resembles the other; but we may fairly hope that 1873 is not so bad as 1769.

1865 was on the whole not so bad as 1873, North Bengal and Behar being certainly worse in the latter year.

Coming now to the antecedent circumstances, I feel quite unable to estimate the effect of exportations and jute-growing on the prospects of modern years as compared to those of the last century, and I must confine myself to other circumstances.

It is clear that in Behar and parts of Northern Bengal a previous bad year had preceded that of 1769-70. The rains had much failed in 1768 in Behar and the North Bengal districts; there was already serious distress in Behar early in 1769, and severe famine in July and August of that year. Rice was scarce in Calcutta in August 1769, so that it was found impossible to get two ship-loads for Madras; and very great alarm soon ensued.

1865 was also preceded by a short year in Behar; 1864-65 was certainly a bad year there, though a good year in Bengal, except where the cyclone and floods had done damage.

1873 suffers under no such disadvantages; the last year's crops were fair in Behar and good in Bengal, especially so in Northern Bengal.

As regards then the antecedent circumstances (export and jute apart), 1769-70 was much worse situated than 1865-66, and 1865-66 was worse situated than 1873.

Coming again to the succeeding circumstances, I find that the failure of the rains of 1769 was followed by a prolonged drought throughout the cold season of 1769-70 and the early part of the hot season, which greatly aggravated the evil.

Some showers mentioned in February seem to have been very limited and partial, for later in the season 9th May 1770) it is officially reported that not a drop of rain had fallen in most of the districts for six months. There was no good rain till the end of May.

In 1865-66, on the other hand, Behar and Bengal were, as I believe, saved from a much worse calamity than actually occurred, by cold weather rains. There was very little rain up to end of December, but in January and February there was an unusual quantity all over the country in both Bengal and Behar, so much that the only complaints were injury from its excess and from the hail which accompanied it in some places. Throughout Behar the official accounts show (even though the November statements had been quite as gloomy as those we now receive) that the rubbee, there so important a crop, was quite a good one, except in limited tracts destroyed by hail. It should be noted, however, that though the valuable rubbee crops of Behar sufficed for rent and revenue, and probably pulled the ehar ryots through, they did not suffice to relieve the labouring classes, who, owing to dearness of prices, continued to suffer more than ever. In Bengal the demand for Orissa in 1866 probably told much on prices, and the rates were, for a short time before the new crop came in, such as must inevitably have led to severe and widespread famine, if they had continued long.

Seeing then how much the famine of 1770 was aggravated by want of cold weather rain, and how much Behar and Bengal were saved in 1866 from the extremity of famine by good cold weather rains, I more and more incline to believe that our fate still very much depends on the weather of the next three months. The cold weather crops, though comparatively small in quantity, especially in Bengal Proper, might just turn the scale. Rain at that season would provide fodder for beast as well as some food for man, and would enable vegetables, &c, to be planted, and make the country altogether much easier.

To take the worst which may be possible, though I hope not probable, viz., that so far the season of 1873 is as unfavourable as that of 1769, I think it is clear that the antecedent scarcity caused the failure of 1769-70 to be felt in a way which would certainly not have happened to the same degree after years of plenty. There remains farther this consolation that the dearth of 1873-74 may yet be mitigated by two things which did not mitigate the dearth of 1769-70, viz., cold weather rain and importation of food. The first depends on Providence, the second on ourselves. I have from the first urged the stoppage of exportation from the rice-producing tracts of British India to foreign countries, and importation to Bengal. The first measure has not been considered desirable; the second, I continue to urge strongly. And I put it as strongly that these importations should be immediate. They will certainly be wanted, whatever happens,—whether want of cold weather rain leads to actual famine, or cold weather rain reduces the misfortune to scarcity. And if supplies come now, while carriage and fodder are available, we shall both store food for our laborers before the strain comes, and draw out all our resources in the way of carriage; whereas if they do not come till later, the public and private demand for means of transport coming together, when the weather may be unfavorable and forage scarce, there will probably be a ruinous block.

Farther Note.

In comparing the different years, we must bear in mind what was brought out clearly from the official records of the India Office in the "Further Report" on the Orissa famine. that severe and terrible as was the famine of 1770 in its immediate effects, it has been very much exaggerated in the statements which have gone down as popular history, representing great part of Bengal as having then relapsed to a state of jungle, from which it did not recover for generations. So far from this being the case, the land revenue of 1771 was actually higher than it had ever been before, and continued to prosper and increase. It is clear then that the dearth of 1770 was not so great as to prevent the next crop being sown or to destroy the productive power of the country.

I note the following information regarding the season 1769-70.

It has been said that Behar was in fact in a state of famine before the rains of 1769 commenced. When they did come they were very late and scanty, and ceased very early. In October 1769 that province was described as "distressed beyond conception," rice was at 10 seer per rupee, and there "were dreadful apprehensions of general famine."

As regards Bengal it is specifically stated on 26th August 1769: "In all the districts northward of Nuddea the crops of rice will be very short indeed, and there is every prospect of a dreadful calamity which God in His infinite mercy avert." There was little rain in September, and none in October, in most parts of the country.

In November 1769 the Collector-General of Calcutta thus sums up the season:

"In the southern quarter or lowalands of the province they have been fortunately blessed with some rain, but to the northward the drought has been so severe as to occasion a total loss of the rice crop in some places and the greater part of it in others;" and on 23rd of the same month the Bengal Government, reporting to the Court of Directors, speaks of "the drought which has prevailed all over the country, such as the oldest inhabitant does not remember."

On the other hand, on 4th February 1770, we find this report, after mention of remissions of revenue in Behar: "In Bengal we have not found yet any failure in the revenue or stated payments."

Up to this time, the greatest distress had been in Behar and the northern districts of Bengal; but soon after it became very severe in the Calcutta and Burdwan districts and especially in Moorshedabad. From May to August 1770 the famine in the southern districts was more severe than in the northern

These northern districts were reported to be greatly relieved by the beginning of July (how it does not appear), but at this very time rice in Moorshedabad reached the rate of 3 seers per rupee, and the distress over a large part of Southern Bengal was awful—quite like that in Orissa in 1866. It was not till September that relief came with the new crops.

The land revenue was not then under any long term settlement leaving a large margin of zemindars' profit; it was collected in a precarious way from year to year, and remissions on account of failure of crops were part of the system. The statement of the revenues in the famine years and subsequent years is certainly somewhat astonishing after the dreadful descriptions of the famine and loss of life. But here is the official statement of the land revenue realized by the Company as taken from the accounts of the Board of Revenue at Moorshedabad—

	Sicca Rs.	As	P.
1768	1,52,54,856	9	4
1769, the year of failure of rain which produced the famine	1,31,49,148	6	3
1770, the year of famine and mortality ..	1,40,06,030	7	8
1771	1,57,26,576	10	2

It is admitted, however, that the revenue of 1771 was raised to a point higher than ever known before by somewhat harsh measures. The season being plentiful, heavy extra cesses were laid on the ryots who remained to make up for those who had run away.

On the whole, I think that taking together the various passages which we can glean from the reports regarding this famine, and balancing the somewhat conflicting evidence afforded by the accounts of the severity of the famine on the one hand and the collection of revenue on the other, we may fairly judge that the season of 1769 was in itself a good deal worse than that of 1873; and that, taking into consideration the previous scarcity (which certainly brought on panic, dearth, and famine far earlier in 1769 than in the present year), we may be pretty confident that the whole situation in those days was much worse than at present, and that we have not now reason to apprehend so great a calamity.

Compared to 1865, if the present season is somewhat worse (it certainly is worse in North Bengal and Behar), we are at the same time free from the disadvantage of a previous bad year in Behar, and may still hope that we shall not fare worse on the whole.

The last accounts just received seem to show that in some districts the crops are turning out rather better than was expected.

At the same time we must bear in mind that in Orissa the season 1865-66 had been preceded by prosperous years, only depleted by voluntary exportation, and that the failure of the autumn crops of 1865 in that province did not appear to be greater than is now reported from great part of Bengal and Behar. Yet severe famine resulted. Also that in the southern districts of Bengal the season 1769-70 was not preceded by bad years or by scarcity other than that induced by exportations to the north and to Madras; that failure of crops in those districts in 1769 was not absolute; yet the result was what has been stated. Notwithstanding comparatively favorable antecedents, the degree of famine which occurred for a time in south Bengal in 1770 and in Orissa in 1866 was probably greater than was ever experienced any where in India within historical times. Bearing these things in mind then, notwithstanding our more favorable estimate of the present situation, we cannot be without anxiety and must not relax precautionary measures.

G. CAMPBELL.

CALCUTTA,
The 25th November, 1873.

Jos. del.

Appendix (3) *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873, *from 22nd November to 28th November* 1873.

APPENDIX B.

Movement of Food Grains.

(1.) ON the Ganges the downward traffic in wheat and gram chiefly from the districts of the Bhaugulpore division to Calcutta still continues. Some 32,000 maunds passed the Sahebgunge registering station between the 19th and 25th. This makes a total from 1st to 25th November of about 78,000 maunds. During the week ending 22nd November 34,000 maunds of the same traffic was registered at Kooshtea on the Gorai, making a total since the beginning of the month of 70,000 maunds. The upward traffic past the Sahebgunge station is still chiefly confined to pulses. During the week ending 21st November 25,000 maunds pulses passed up, making a total since the 1st November of 32,000 maunds. From the 22nd to the 25th some 13,000 maunds more of pulses passed up.

Between the 15th and 25th November 16,000 maunds rice proceeded upwards past Sahebgunge, making a total since the 1st November of 26,000 maunds.

(2.) From Goalundo we are advised that rice is still passing up the Ganges, over 25,000 maunds having been registered in the week ending 22nd November. This makes a total of 43,000 maunds since the beginning of this month. This registering station is not kept open at night and the river is very wide, so the traffic is no doubt larger than is registered.

It is to be noted that this upwards trade in rice past Goalundo at this time of year is not usual. The down trade in food-grains past Goalundo has ceased.

An officer who has lately been up the Oorasagur, a broad channel connecting the northern Bengal districts with the Brahmaputra, reports large consignments of rice arriving from the eastern districts.

There is still very little doing in food-grains on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

(3.) By the eastern canals 97,000 maunds of food-grains, almost entirely rice, came to Calcutta between the 16th and 26th November. This makes a total since the 1st October of 575,000 maunds.

(4.) The last note brought the returns of despatches of rice from Howrah, Chandernagore, and places adjacent up to the evening of the 19th November. Since that date up to the evening of the 26th, 125,000 maunds has been despatched from these stations, chiefly to Bhaugulpore and other stations on the Loop Line, Patna and Arrah. A large proportion of this 125,000 maunds is rice purchased by Government for relief works. The total despatch from Howrah and Chandernagore by rail since October 8th now amounts to 814,000 maunds.

(5.) Of external trade the chief point to notice is that the export of rice from Calcutta to foreign ports is small, 54,000 maunds having left the port between 19th and 26th November, making a total since 1st November of 214,000 maunds. Between the 19th and 26th 2,000 maunds wheat, and 10,000 maunds other food-grains left the port. Between the same dates 60,848 maunds rice was imported from British Indian ports as follows:—

	Maunds.
Rangoon	43,176
Akyab	427
Balasore	6,933
Dhomrah	2,200
Chandballi	6,062
Chittagong	5,052

This import from Rangoon is almost entirely on Government account.

(6.) By telegraph we learn that between 19th and 26th November, 24,000 maunds rice was shipped from Chittagong to Calcutta, while the export to foreign ports during the same period was nil.

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

The 28th November 1873.

Appendix C to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873, *from 22nd November to 28th November* 1873.

No. 3249, dated Fort William, the 24th November 1873.

From—R. B. Chapman, Esq., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Financial Dept.,
To—The Hon'ble C. Bernard, Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Referring to my letter No. 3012, dated 13th November, I am directed by the Governor-General in Council to request that, with the permission of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor, you will, as soon as possible, report for the information of the Government of India the plan which the Government of Bengal has devised for the distribution of the rice imported from beyond seas, and the places where it is proposed to store it in readiness for actual consumption.

W. E. B.

No. 3626.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

IN THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, *dated 25th November* / *issued November* 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter No. 3249, dated 24th November, I am directed to submit that, under present arrangements, the rice imported* from beyond the sea is sent up-country for storage at imperial works only. It was understood that foreign rice should not be sent to the Soane Canal for storage, as the Government of India hoped to be able to fill the stores there from the North-Western Provinces. Accordingly, foreign rice is being sent for storage at the Gunduk embankment, and on the Northern Bengal Railway works only.

* 14,402 bags of 225lbs. to 230lbs. each have arrived in Calcutta up to date, per steamers *Dacca*, *Chaldea*, *Moulmein*, and *Mahratta*, Regarding the unlading, &c.

2. Rice intended for storage on the Gunduk embankment is sent by railway to the Patna Ghat station, and thence by country boat up the Gunduk to places of storage. As yet only a few thousand bags have gone, and they can hardly have got far on their way towards storing places in Sarun and Chumparun. Reports have not yet been received of the sites selected for store-houses on the Gunduk works, or of the erection of store-houses; but the Lieutenant-Governor has every confidence that the storage will be done properly and in good time, and he sent off the rice at once, so that the means of transport might be utilised at once, and rice be stored on the works as soon as possible. Mr. Bayley has secured storage room at the Patna Ghat station in case rice has to wait there for boats.

3. Rice intended for storage on the Northern Bengal Railway works is at present being sent by three different routes, namely,—

(1) To Goalundo by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and thence in boats up the Oorasaugor to store-houses which are being made at Sultanpore and Nowgong on the Jamoona and Atrai rivers. The small steamer *Flame* with her two barges started from Goalundo some days ago up this river with a cargo of rice.

(2) To Kooshtea by the Eastern Bengal Railway, and thence by native boats to the Oorasaugor as before; at Kooshtea the Lieutenant-Governor has placed the *Teesta* steamer with two flats to carry rice between Kooshtea and the mouth of the Oorasaugor or else between Kooshtea and Godagiree, at the mouth of the Mahanuddee. As yet we have not ascertained for certain how the *Teesta* can best be employed; but Mr. Molony, the Commissioner of Rajshahye, anticipates that as small boats (of 200 to 400 maunds only) can go up the Mahanuddee and Oorasaugor, the *Teesta* and her flats will have to ply between Kooshtea and the mouths of these rivers.

(3) By railway to Rajmehal, and thence by cart from the opposite side of the river to the Northern Bengal Railway near Dinagepore. Major Lindsay, who recently went to Dinagepore, wrote that there was carriage on that road, and wished to have it tried; so 5,000 maunds of rice are being sent to Rajmehal to Major Lindsay's forwarding agent there. We do not yet know how these three routes will answer, nor can the Lieutenant-Governor say for certain that store-houses have yet been prepared. But Mr. Molony who is in Dinagepore is arranging all these matters, and in a few weeks time we shall know how the several routes answer. Meanwhile each route is receiving a practical trial as soon as possible.

4. As yet no foreign rice has been sent to the Soane Canal for storage, but a certain amount of Indian rice (5,000 maunds a week) was being sent until the receipt of your instructions mentioned above. Mr. Levingo, the Superintending Engineer, was preparing store-houses at Buxar and at other places on the works.

5. In case the Government of India may desire to know what amangements are making for storing grain on local relief works, I am to explain that as yet Government grain has been sent—

(1) To Caragola, opposite Sahebgunge, on the railway, whence it will be transported by carts to Dengraghat, where a store-house has been made on the Mahanuddee. Six hundred carts were collected at Caragola for this grain some days ago, and some of them must have started on their first trip by now.

(2) To Bhaugulpore Railway Station, whence it will be carried across the river, and then taken on carts to Soopole and Mudheypoorah, the two northern subdivisions of Bhaugulpore. The Commissioner reports that on the route he can carry 10,000 maunds a week. Some 5,000 maunds have already been sent to him, and the carriage in this direction has still to be tried. The Superintendent of Works was at Soopole a few days ago, and will have arranged for store-houses.

(3) To Luckeserai Station, whence it will be transported in carts to storing places in the south of the Monghyr district to store-houses on the works there. As yet we have not heard the result of the consignment of rice sent to Luckeserai.

(4) To Monghyr Station, whence it will be carried across the Ganges to works in northern Monghyr. Some 2,000 maunds went to this station a few days ago; the results are not yet known.

(5) To Raigunge on the Mahanuddee, as the northern corner of Maldah, and on the border between Dinagepore and Purneah. The grain for the store-house here, which is to be a large one, goes to Kooshtea by railway, and thence by steamer and boat up the Mahanuddee.

6. It will be seen that this Government and its officers are trying as many available routes as they can. As yet the local officers write very confidently from Behar that they will be able to provide locally as much carriage as is required. From Dinagepore, too, it is said that there will be plenty of carts available. But it is at present too early to say how far the transport arrangements succeed or fail.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

R. S.

Appendix C. to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873, *from 22nd November to 28th November* 1873.

Nos. 3057-58.

FROM H. L. DAMPIER, ESQ.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF PATNA AND BHAUGULPORE.

Calcutta, the 24th November 1873.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
Mis Revenue.
Opium.

SIR,

I AM directed to state that, in the present season of distress, the Lieutenant-Governor is very anxious to promote the digging of wells in the districts where irrigation of this kind may save crops, give labor, and mitigate scarcity. His Honor has already sanctioned advances for this purpose to the opium ryots, and copies of the correspondence* on the subject are annexed. Your attention is invited to the question whether this measure might not be farther extended to landholders and cultivators who are not connected with the Opium Department.

* From Board of Revenue No. 524B, dated 10th November 1873.
To Board of Revenue, No. 2941, dated 12th November 1873.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes the measure to be carried out to its fullest extent in Government estates and wards' estates. On the one hand, the obligation which lies on the Government in its own right, or as administrator, to assist the ryots on these estates is greater than it is where the ryots have a zemindar to look to; and, on the other, the securities for the recovery of advances are practically greater.

3. In zemindary estates, the District Officers should urge the zemindars to promote the digging of wells, either by taking advances under the Loan Act for the purpose, or by standing security for the advances which the Government might make to the cultivators. Where the zemindar or other substantial tenure-holder comes forward in this manner, there will be no difficulty. It might be so arranged that the zemindar should receive an advance in a lump sum on his making himself responsible for its repayment, and undertaking that a certain number of wells shall be dug. He might then be left to make his own arrangements with the ryots.

4. Even where no such arrangement can be made, the Lieutenant-Governor would still wish the District Officers to do all that can prudently be done to give the cultivators the benefit of these advances.

In estates where wells are urgently wanted, and from circumstances the zemindars are unable to do their duty, if a ryot can give good security of any kind, the advance may unobjectionably be made, and even in cases in which no regular security can be offered, the local officers might in some cases, provided the need is very urgent, give advances to ryots, who, from the character and position they hold in the village, may be presumed to be men who will honestly repay the money to the best of their ability. You will not fail to observe that the benefit derived from every well which is dug will be twofold—it will employ labor as well as supply water.

5. With these remarks, the Lieutenant-Governor relies on you and your officers to consider whether such a measure can be advantageously and prudently carried out.

For the present you should make funds available for these advances out of the allotment† which was placed at the disposal of Commissioners by paragraph 25 of Circular No. 80, dated 17th November, subject to any adjustment which may hereafter be considered desirable.

† For the Patna Division three lakhs. For the Bhaugulpore Division two lakhs.

6. It will be understood that, whenever it is possible, these advances should be regularly made under the rules of the Land Improvement Act, No. XXVI of 1871, as now relaxed. But this letter also conveys authority to you to go beyond the Act and rules in cases where the security required by the Act cannot be obtained, and where the advance does not exceed Rs. 50 in any one case, and is urgently required for the digging of wells. My letter of this date to the Board of Revenue will explain how the Lieutenant-Governor wishes you to make use of the Agency of the Opium Department in regard to any advance for wells which you may think desirable.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. L. DAMPIER,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 3059.

COPY to be forwarded to "Scarcity and Relief Department" of this office for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. L. DAMPIER,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 24th November 1873.

R S.

No. 3055.

FROM H. L. DAMPIER, ESQ.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 24th November 1873.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Opium.

SIR,

IN continuation of Mr. Abbott's letter No. 2941, dated the 12th November 1873, I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor again to press upon the Member in Charge the great importance, at this time, of pushing to the utmost the multiplication of wells in the Behar Opium Agency. The cultivators should be encouraged by every means in the power of the Agent and his establishment, to avail themselves of the advances which the Agent has been authorized to make.

2. His Honor is also desirous in the present season to extend in some cases similar advantages to landholders and cultivators of the distressed tracts willing to make wells, if this can, in the opinion of the local officers, be done without excessive work and with advantage to the country. And since the only agency ready to hand, which has experience in distributing such advances and dealing with the ryots in regard to them, is to be found in the establishments of the Opium Agent and his Sub-Deputies, the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to make use of these establishments, wherever they exist, for making advances for wells to the ryots whenever the local officers desire it.

3. I am, therefore, to request that the Opium Agent of Behar may be at once directed to place himself in communication with the Commissioners of the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions, and to carry out through the Opium establishments the distribution of advances for wells, in accordance with any instructions which they may receive from those Commissioners.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor leaves it to the Opium Agent and to the Commissioners to arrange the working of this measure between the District Officers and the Opium establishments.

5. The Commissioners have been instructed to hold funds available for the purpose.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. L. DAMPIER,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 3056.

COPY forwarded to the "Scarcity and Relief Department" of this office for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. L. DAMPIER,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 24th November 1873.

Appendix F *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873, *from 22nd November to 28th November* 1873.

Dated 21st November 1873.

From—Baboo Jotendro Mohun Tagore, Honorary Secretary, British Indian Association,

To—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

The Committee of the British Indian Association have watched with intense anxiety the prospects of the crops of the present season in the Bengal Provinces, and have been filled with alarm and grief at the disastrous effects which the early cessation of the rains has produced. So far as they have been able to judge, the calamity impending over the country threatens to be much more widespread, and consequently much more serious, than in 1865-66.

2. In 1865-66 the brunt of the struggle was confined to Orissa, containing only three millions of people. It is true that some tracts of Behar, Chota Nagpore, and the metropolitan districts, also suffered, but suffering in those tracts was not so intense or protracted as in the Orissa districts. In the present year, nearly the whole of Bengal, Behar, and Chota Nagpore, has suffered from the drought, covering an area of 180,857 square miles, and containing a population of nearly 59 millions. In 1865-66, the Eastern and Northern Districts, which are the great rice-producing and rice-exporting districts of Bengal, were well off, and their surplus produce was available for the afflicted people. In the present year most of these districts will have hardly enough for home consumption, while some, such as Dinagepore, Rungpore, Bogra, and parts of other districts, will require the importation of food. The position of the whole province of Behar and of a considerable portion of Chota Nagpore is most critical. The same remarks apply to several parts of the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. To add to the gravity of the crisis, the prospects of the cold-weather crops are far from cheering, while the whole of the Benares Division in the North-Western Provinces, and parts of the Central Provinces and Oudh, are said to be suffering from the drought.

3. It is of course difficult to form an accurate estimate of the probable outturn of the amun crop, but it is doubtful whether, taking the good and bad districts together, excepting Orissa, the general yield will be a six-anna crop upon the whole. Nothing would give the Committee greater satisfaction than to see their estimate exceeded by the actual result; but after having given the subject their best and most serious attention, they are sorry to own that they do not feel justified in coming to a more sanguine conclusion. They are fully alive to the mischief which an alarmist view of things is calculated to produce upon the popular mind, fraught as it is with dismay and despondency, but at the same time they cannot but submit, that when the whole country is pervaded with a deep gloom, it would be dangerous to hold out delusive rays of hope, which experience and present knowledge do not justify one in thinking would be realised at the hour of trial.

4. While such is the prospect of the present crop, the hope of tiding over the difficulty with the aid of the stores of previous years is indeed very feeble. It it true that Bengal has always been regarded as the land of plenty, but it is not the less true that a country seldom grows food-crops or any other crops much in excess of demand both at home and abroad. Rice is a perishable article, and it is not therefore the interest of the agriculturist to store it in large quantities by way of provision against future contingencies. Whatever might have been the case in former years, the impetus which trade and industry have received under the auspices of British rule, has taught the producer the value of money; and as a capitalist does not like to keep his money idle, so he does not like to have his rice locked up from a dread of possible want in a bad year. There are certainly people who keep stores of rice, such as mahajuns, who deal in rice, who feed the ryot after his stock is exhausted and till the new crop is harvested; and a few substantial men; and these stores generally suffice to carry the people through the harvest year. If any doubts should exist on this point, the experiences of the Orissa famine ought to set them at rest. When that calamity occurred, as usual on such occasions, great stress was at first laid upon old stores, and loud and bitter cries were raised against the supposed hard-hearted men who would not open their stocks to save their famishing fellow-creatures, but the futility of these cries was made patent when the grim reality came. Judging, therefore, from experience and from their

knowledge of their countrymen, the committee submit that it would not be safe to rely upon the delusive hope of old stores.

5. In the midst of this general gloom, the people are cheered up by one ray of hope. They observe with the deepest feeling of gratitude that those to whose hands Providence has committed their destinies have been moved to the utmost anxiety, care, and compassion, from a contemplation of the terrible disaster impending over them, and they feel confident that nothing will be left undone which may be accomplished with the resources of their vast continent, seconded by the means and appliances of the mighty nation which rules this land, to save them from starvation, disease, and death. The promptitude, foresight, determination, and sympathy, which His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor have evinced in organising preliminary measures to meet the coming crisis have greatly sustained their drooping hopes and their sunken hearts.

6. From the inquiries the committee have instituted and the information in their possession, they conclude that there will be a very large deficiency of food for the country during next year, and they are strongly of opinion that in this state of things it cannot be advisable to allow the export of food-grains from British India. Considerations of prudence, sound policy, and humanity, the committee respectfully submit, alike require that whatever food which may be available in the country, should be kept in it. The committees are well aware that the question is of grave importance, and involves many serious considerations. The requirements of foreign communities, the obligations of merchants, the advantages to be derived by particular sections of the people of this country by sales at high prices to foreigners, are matters which should not be looked at lightly; but in a crisis like the present, in which the lives of millions are at stake, they must be allowed to be outweighed. It is true that high prices will check the export of rice, but by the time they reach the prohibitory figure, large quantities will have been shipped away, and then high prices will avail little in giving the benefit of restraining export. It is also observable that differences in the value of money, and consequently, staple articles of food, are so great in different parts of the world, and that Bengal in this respect is so unfortunately situated that what are reckoned as simply high prices in other parts will prove positively famine prices in this country; and the limit, therefore, which will act as prohibitory of exports, will not be reached until it has far exceeded what will prove extremely oppressive here. The experience of 1865-66 and 1866-67 shew that notwithstanding what was reckoned high prices in Bengal, enormous quantities were exported in those years, which, if they could have been retained in the country, would have gone a great way in saving the famished millions of Orissa.

7. The objections to the prohibition of exportation may be thus summarized:—1st, loss of revenue; 2nd, loss to the private trader; and 3rd, loss to friendly nations which depend on Indian produce. With regard to the first, the committee respectfully submit that revenue can be no object with the Government at a time of national distress. With regard to the second, it is observable that individual interests ought to give way where the vital interests of the nation are in jeopardy In times of financial emergency, the Government did not hesitate to raise the customs tariff, notwithstanding the loss which sudden enhancement of tariff rates necessarily occasioned to the private trader. To meet the grave financial crisis of 1860, the first Finance Minister of India went to the length of raising the duty on saltpetre to a figure which ultimately destroyed the trade, but no consideration of the interests of the private trader then restrained the Government from resorting to that extreme measure. But the crisis rising from a want of supply of food for the nation is far more serious than a financial crisis. With regard to the loss to friendly nations, it is to be deeply regretted; but they cannot fairly blame the Government for adopting the extreme measure when it is a matter of life and death with those who supply the produce. When the producers are themselves threatened with starvation, with what fairness can they be called upon to feed others? It is observable that much of the exported rice is consumed for starch and distillery purposes, and the committee are inclined to think that human ingenuity may find some substitute for it. As for the countries which depend on Indian rice for food, their position will not be materially altered by the prohibition of export, if those who rely upon high prices as a deterring agent

are correct in their assumption, for the result will be the same to them, whether export be restrained by high prices or by a mandate of the Legislature, but Burmah and Saigon will be open to them.

8. The committee are aware that the annual export of rice from this country is not large compared with the quantity required to meet the estimated deficiency of food, still it may be the means of saving the lives of many thousands, and if the effort of an individual or the State could save even one life, that effort would not be made in vain. The other food-grains exported from British India are not of course large, but the same considerations that suggest the stoppage of the export of rice also suggest that of the export of other food-grains. The prohibition ought to apply to all ports throughout British India except Burmah. The committee do not include British Burmah, inasmuch as it will form a reserve for those friendly colonies such as Mauritius and West India Islands, the staple food of the cooly immigrants of which is rice, and as it will be open to the Indian trader and Indian Government to import rice from it for consumption here. Indeed, the committee are of opinion that rice from Burmah, as the nearest port, may be laid down here at much less cost than food-grain imported from any other place by sea, and should be stored in large quantities, for though it may not wholly replace the Bengal rice, still in times of emergency any rice would be better than no rice.

9. In the Resolution of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General, dated the 7th instant, it is stated that His Excellency has received various suggestions to interfere with the trade in grain, either by prohibiting export or by undertaking the general purchase and distribution of grain, or by regulating the market price, and that "without making any pledge as to what may or may not be done in the event of extreme necessity arising, which cannot now be foreseen, the Government is not prepared to adopt any such measures, and would always avoid them so far and so long as they possibly could be avoided." But time is precious, and if it be allowed to slip away, it may, the Committee fear, be too late to give the country the benefit expected from the prohibition of export. As for the other two measures, the Government has partially undertaken the second by offering to assist private individuals to lay in stocks. But this measure, the Committee respectfully submit, would be wholly insufficient. They have, they venture to hope, sufficiently indicated the extent of the deficiency of supply of food in the country from the failure of the rains, taking both the probable outturn of the present crops and old stores, and they feel convinced that this deficiency cannot be met without a large importation of food-grains from foreign countries. This, as already observed, cannot be done effectually for some classes of the people. The rice suitable for the people of Bengal cannot be had anywhere else. Nevertheless, there are large communities for whom food of various kinds may be imported to advantage. To the aboriginal races on the South-Western Frontier of Bengal and in Bhaugulpore, Burmah rice will, the Committee believe, prove most welcome, and to the people of Behar and to Beharese and up-country people generally dwelling in different parts of Bengal, wheat and Indian corn imported from foreign places would afford material relief. To the Bengali even, who is accustomed to two meals, one meal in wheat could not be unacceptable. Wheat and Indian corn being more nutritious than rice, a maund of them may supply the place of nearly two maunds of rice, a circumstance which will conduce to facility of transport as well as economy in cost.

In recommending the importation of grain by Government, the Committee humbly submit they are not without precedent. During the Great Irish Famine of 1847, Parliament voted a grant of £10,000,000, and Sir Robert Peel laid in stocks of food drawn from different parts of the world. The task before the Government of India at the present time is far more onerous than what the English Government had to meet in 1847, for the former has to feed about ten times the population which the latter had during the Irish Famine of 1847. It is superfluous for the Committee to observe that in a crisis like the present individual aid, which they feel confident will be freely accorded, will avail little; the community as represented in the State must put forth its entire strength. Entertaining this opinion, the Committee submit that it would be most unfortunate if the present invaluable time were lost in laying in stocks of food from foreign countries. The task of feeding 60 millions of people may well appall the stoutest heart; but if it is to be undertaken, the Committee would solicit that

no time may be lost in laying in supplies, for which there would be no lack of demand. It may be easily imagined that a vast number of ships will be required to transport food to meet the anticipated deficiency, and unless arrangements were made betimes, it would be too late to do anything. As in the case of export, so in that of importation of food-grain from foreign countries, the present time is invaluable. It is observable that it would not be expedient to rely for this importation upon the natural laws of demand and supply, inasmuch as the private merchant would not hazard the undertaking without an assured prospect of profit, whereas such consideration would not or should not hamper the Government; and by the time the former realizes that prospect, the opportune time may have been entirely lost.

10. With regard to the regulation of market prices, the Committee need hardly remark that not only would such a measure involve gross injustice to the private trader, but would discourage or hinder private enterprize, and thus aggravate the difficulty which it is sought to relieve.

11. The relief measures which the Government has commenced have, it appears, for their primary objects the alleviation of the sufferings of the able-bodied poor, who can work on the roads and other works, and of those physically incapable, who may go to relief centres for food or assistance. But above these classes is a large class of men and women, who, from caste-feeling, cannot degrade themselves to the level of the day-laborer or the street beggar, and who are yet too poor to maintain themselves at a time of general distress. In ordinary times, they earn their livelihood with great difficulty, their income being generally scanty, and they will be, it may be easily imagined, utterly helpless at a time of universal distress. During the Orissa famine of 1866, numbers of men and women of this class died unknown and unnoticed, until the attention of the relief committee was drawn to them, and a system was devised, called village relief, for their benefit. It will be necessary, the Committee submit, to devise similar measures of village relief for the benefit of the poor middle class, and it is therefore desirable to organize the relief committees early for the purpose of keeping them in readiness to meet exigencies as they arise. The experiences of the Orissa famine relief committee will be a good guide to the proposed relief committees in their operations.

12. The Government, the Committee observe, has offered to assist planters, landholders, and other private individuals in the importation of grain within the country. This is, indeed, a good measure, and will doubtless prove beneficial. The Committee nevertheless apprehend that owing to various causes, the advantage will not be so widespread as could be wished. They are of opinion that relief committees should be early organised in those districts which are most threatened with the impending calamity, and that they should be charged with the business of importation and distribution of grain.

13. The Committee humbly but earnestly and confidently hope that the general community will render cordial co-operation and assistance in the impending crisis for the alleviation of suffering and distress. But native charity, as was well remarked by the Famine Commission of 1866, "takes the shape of distribution of food in times of scarcity, which the natives consider a cardinal virtue," and though in large towns rich men, who have imbibed western notions, will doubtless not be wanting in liberality to give money subscriptions, the bulk of native charity, the Committee believe, will take the form indicated above, and thus supplement largely the relief houses to be established by Government.

14. Should the above suggestions meet with the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Committee would request the favour of your moving His Honor to take such action in the matter as he may think fit, and also obtain the sanction of the Government of India on such points or on which such sanction may be deemed necessary.

W. E. B. and Jos. deC.

No. 3638.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE HONORARY SECY. TO THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

Calcutta, the 26th November 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter as Honorary Secretary to the British Indian Association, expressing the views of the Committee of the Association as to the extent to which the crops have unfortunately failed through the drought in these provinces and the measures which should be taken in consequence, and am directed to ask you to be good enough to convey to those gentlemen the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor for their advice in this unhappy emergency.

2. The Association will have seen from the published papers that, after full consideration, the Government has for the present determined not to interfere with the export of food-grains from the country.

3. With respect to charitable relief, the Government has thought it better not to appeal directly to the public on the subject, till the extent of the calamity is more fully disclosed, and the appeal can be made with sufficient point and directness. The Lieutenant-Governor would by no means however discourage any efforts that benevolent and public spirited men may make in that direction, nor are such efforts, His Honor regrets to say, likely to be either premature or unnecessary.

4. With reference to expressions used in the 13th paragraph of the letter of the Association regarding "the relief-houses to be established by Government," I am directed to remind you that it has been declared that Government will not undertake the whole of this burden, but will look to the general public to make a commencement and largely to contribute towards charitable relief. In anticipation of the necessity for relief houses, instructions have been given to make arrangements for the organisation of the Local Committees by whom they are to be started and administered when necessity arises, and I am to suggest that the Association may beneficially occupy themselves in finding efficient men to serve on these Committees, and in obtaining offers of subscriptions for the houses. His Honor would be glad to be informed from time to time what success the Association has achieved in this way.

5. On the whole subject, and with special reference to the 5th paragraph of your letter, I am to observe that while Government recognizes the duties imposed upon it by its position in such a calamity, it must be remembered that the Legislature has made over to the zemindars of Bengal and Behar the greater part of the land revenue of these provinces, a gift carrying with it the care of the estates and of the many people by whom the revenue is produced; and that in a time of distress like the present the Government must look very much to the landlords of Bengal to aid these poor people. To do this is both a moral obligation and a measure of prudence on the part of a landlord who would maintain the prosperity and productiveness of his estate.

The British Indian Association may well therefore occupy themselves thus early in urging upon landlords liberality towards, and consideration for, the tenantry of their estates.

6. The Lieutenant Governor trusts thus that while the Association is good enough to advise Government of its duties in this emergency, it will exert its influence successfully upon its own members, and on all upon whom it has influence, and that the Association will soon be able to give the Government gratifying information of the steps it has taken in this direction.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3639.

COPY of the Association's letter and of the foregoing reply submitted to the Government of India for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 26th November 1873.

D. E. J.

Enclosures 1 *to* 7 *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873, *from* 22*nd November to* 28*th November* 1873.

Rainfall, Weather and State and Prospects of the Crops.

Statement showing Rainfall, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops in the different Districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 22nd November 1873.

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL.		1873.				
	Western Districts.					
BURDWAN DIVISION. 1	Burdwan ..	Nov 25th*	Nil	No rain; dew tolerably heavy.	It is becoming clear that the crops in the east and south of the district are not nearly so bad as those in west and some of the northern thannahs.	Fever prevalent
2	Bankoorah ..	„ 22nd	Nil	Dry and cold ..	The sowing of cold weather crops has mostly been a failure. About eight annas of the late or winter paddy expected to come in during December.	
3	Beerbooom ..	„ 22nd	Nil	Cold and bright ..	Early rice harvest over. Reaping of the late rice commencing. Exportation by rail of week ending 15th instant, 7,002 maunds, chiefly to the Bhaugulpore and Patna divisions. Prices show a rising tendency.	
4	Midnapore .	„ 22nd	Nil	Seasonable, dry and cold	Unchanged since last report. Prices are still the same, but if anything, with a tendency to rise. Rice is being imported to the north of the district from the south in large quantities.	
5	Hooghly ..	„ 22nd	Nil	Clear throughout; wind from north-east. No prospect of rain.	The state of the crops is much the same as when last reported. The early rice is being cut generally throughout the district, the outturn is about two annas. The upland rice is continuing to dry up. The cut at the head of the Kana Nuddea is progressing rapidly, and will place a large volume of water for irrigation at the disposal of the cultivators. Prices are rising generally.	
	Howrah ..	„ 22nd	Nil	Settled, fine; days unseasonably warm; nights comparatively cold; dew very heavy.	The prospects of the crops remain unaltered in all material respects. The water raised from the Damoodah through cuts in the embankments has done much good in many places in Shampore. The Ooloberiah crops are better than what was anticipated, and so are those in Amptah. But these alterations for the better are not large enough to affect the general result materially.	Fever very bad in Shibpore,—about ten deaths a day. Has now appeared in Belgatchea and its neighbourhood, situated at the other extremity of the municipality.
	Central District.					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION. 6	24-Pergunnahs ..	„ 22nd†	Nil	The sky somewhat overcast about the time of the new moon. Weather still warm for the time of the year.	In Diamond Harbour sub-division about a seven-annas crop is expected, and some distress is apprehended in the southern parts of thannahs Sultanpore and Mathoorapore, where more than a two-annas crop cannot be hoped for. From Barripore the Deputy Collector reports that the paddy cut contains very little grain, and that the outturn will be very poor. Cold weather crops have been sown here and in Barraset, wherever water was available. In the latter sub-division the rice crop on the high lands is comparatively destroyed, but some good crops will be taken from the beels and low lands. In Satkheerah and Busseerhaut prospects are reported to be getting worse and worse as the drought	Fever still continues in Barripore, Busseerhaut, and Satkheerah sub-divisions, and at Alipore. Small-pox has made its appearance in Busseerhaut. Elsewhere public health good.

* Telegram of the 24th November received on the same day. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.
† Report of the 22nd November received on the 26th. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*) *Central Districts.*—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
					continues. Some distress is felt by the labouring classes in the latter sub-division for want of employment which is generally abundant at this season of the year. Reports from other parts much the same as before. Prices have generally an upward tendency, but as the late rice crop is cut, it is anticipated that they will become easier.	
PRESIDENCY DIVISION. 7	Nuddea	Nov. 22nd	Nil	Sky generally clear; nights cold; days rather hot for the time of the year.	No material change in the prospects of the crops. From the Ranaghat sub-division it is reported that there will be only a two-anna crop of the late rice; elsewhere a four-anna crop is still expected.	
8	Jessore	" 22nd	Nil	Clear and sunny, with occasional light clouds.	There has been no rain during the week, and the state of the crops is consequently much the same as last week. In the Sudder Sub-division the urhur (pulse) and indigo look pretty well, but the rest of the cold weather crops suffer from want of rain. The tapping of the trees for date-sugar is commencing. This is an important produce throughout a great part of the district, and cold, clear weather in December and January is what it principally wants; some fears are felt as to the effect of the want of rain on the supply of juice, but it is too early to judge. The other cold weather crops are in bad condition owing to want of rain. This is particularly the case with the mustard. Pulses and linseed are in some places better than others. The *boro* rice crop is grown somewhat largely in the south, and this is the time for sowing and transplanting. The drought is said to be interfering with the growth of the seedlings and an insect known as "majra poka" is damaging the seed beds. The general outturn of the late rice as now estimated will not be materially different from the expectations previously reported. Prices throughout the district are still comparatively low.	
9	Moorshedabad	" 22nd	Nil	No rain during the week; occasionally cloudy.	Prospects much the same as last week, but from the Collector's personal observation in the western parts of the district, from which the worst reports had been received, they do not appear to be quite so gloomy as represented. A great deal of the crops has been saved by irrigation. In the north the harvest has commenced, and the sub-divisional officer states that an average outturn of seven annas is expected. The cold weather crops generally want rain, but are getting on fairly in some parts. Prices at head-quarters—best rice 11 to 12 seers, common rice average 14 seers, early rice 16 seers per rupee.	
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION. 10	Dinagepore	" 22nd	Nil	No rain, dry; north wind prevailing.	No change for the better.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Central Districts.—(*Contd.*)	1873.				
11	Maldah ...	Nov. 22nd	Nil	Weather hot and dry; nights cold; clouds collect and disappear.	There has been no rain the week, and consequently no improvement in the state of the crops. The cutting of the winter rice crop will commence in a few days. The yield of the whole district is not expected to average more than a four-anna crop. In places where there is still some moisture the plant looks well, but the ears do not swell with grain as they should do. It is thus difficult to tell till the crop is reaped what the exact outturn will be. The cold weather crops may still be fairly good if rain falls before the end of November. Relief work in the shape of repairs to district roads is going on	Health of the district good
12	Rajshahye ...	" 22nd	Nil	No rain; cloudy and close the first part of the week; latterly the sky has cleared, and the nights and mornings have been cooler.	In the Bhurindro in the west of the district and in the extreme north of Singrah Thannah the late rice has failed. In Baruigaon the crop is a very fair one, in the rest of the district generally the crop will give an average yield of six annas. The cold weather crops are suffering from continued drought. The mulberry crop is a very fair one. Pulses and teel (oil-seed) are promising, but will require rain shortly. Prices of rice show little or no variation.	Small-pox at Beauleah. Cholera at Poothia. Ditto at Charghat. Ditto at Belmaria. Ditto and small-pox at Nattore. Small-pox at Bagmara.
13	Rungpore ...	" 22nd	Nil	The weather continues fine and tolerably cool, but there does not seem to be any prospect of a rainfall.	The state of the rice crop is extremely bad, not much more than a three-anna crop can be expected. In one or two parts of the district it is hoped that a six-anna crop may be obtained, but in other parts it is expected that it will be as low as one-anna. The price of rice throughout the district ranges from Rs. 3 to 5 per maund. Tobacco, wheat, mustard, and different kinds of pulses have been extensively sown, but the continued want of rain is causing great damage. The sugar-cane and ginger crops are said to be good in some parts of the district	
14	Bograh ...	" 22nd	Nil	....	As previously reported, only a small part of the late rice crop will be saved. Some cold weather crops, sesamum, oilseed, &c, are favorably reported on in parts. Sugarcane prospering. 15 seers of rice per rupee at Bograh market on the 22nd November.	
15	Pubna ...	" 22nd	Nil	Warm for the time of the year; chilly winds however blow from the north-west. There has been no rain at all, and there is no prospect of any at present	The low ground late rice is still being cut. It will be about an eight-anna crop. The cold weather crops were all sown in proper time, but they are somewhat backward. Their prospects still remain good, but they will fail if the present drought continues long	

RAJSHAHYE DIVN.—(*Contd.*)

No.	District.	Date of return from each district	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS
BENGAL.—(*Contd*)						
	Central Districts—(*Contd*)	1873.				
COOCH BEHAR DIVISION. 16	Darjeeling	Nov 22nd	Nil	A slight sprinkling of rain on Sunday last, not a drop since Bright, clear sky generally.	Throughout the district (hills and plains) a ten-anna crop of paddy all round may be expected. Bhoota (maize) in the hills, which has just been gathered in, may be put down as a twelve-anna crop; it has gone up in price, but this is owing to its being bought up through the fear of the supplies of rice from the plains falling short, from the temptation to sell it at high prices beyond the district.	
17	Julpigoree	" 22nd	Nil	Fine, clear weather, but sun very powerful, unusually dry, and no signs of rain.	There is little change in the prospect of the crops this week Rice is selling cheaper generally in the district since new rice has come into the market	
	Cooch Behar	" 22nd	Nil	No signs of rain	The late rice crop is good in the low lands, though very poor in the high lands, and altogether there will be at least a ten anna crop Exportation to Rungpore by carts and pack-bullocks is taking place The cold weather crops are looking well Rain is not wanted for a month, as at present it would injure the tobacco.	
	Eastern Districts					
DACCA DIVISION. 18	Dacca	" 25th*	Nil	Weather not so cool as usual at this season.	Prospects of crop much as before On the whole the out turn rather better than was expected Pulses look well; oil seeds, indifferent	Fever very bad at Manickgunge. Civil Surgeon is gone there
19	Furreedpore	" 22nd	Nil	Clear and bright throughout the week; days still hot, but cold in the morning and at night, with heavy dews.	No change in the state of the rice crops since last week All over the district reaping continues in the low lands, and the weather is favorable for this In the higher parts the harvest is in, and the paddy is in course of being thrashed and converted into rice. The Deputy Collector deputed to the southern side says that the rice crops in that quarter, for the most part low and marshy, promise to turn out very well, and that no distress is likely to occur there. A Sub-Deputy Collector attached to Goalundo writes from Bangsha, almost at the extreme north-western side of the district, that the harvest in these parts will be about a quarter of last year, that a great number of fields have been abandoned in despair because of the drought, and that the cattle are allowed to feed on the crops. The average price of rice in the district is 18½ seers per rupee. The cold weather crops of pulses, oil-seeds, vegetables, &c, are still in a fair way, especially those sown early. The late sowings are unable to make any progress. Mustard stunted, when 3 or 4 inches high flowers and runs to seed too quickly. The prospects are by no means good, and they must suffer if it does not rain shortly. Sugarcane all over the district has been good.	Cholera still reported from Goalundo.

* Telegram of the 25th November received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL — (*Contd*)						
	Eastern Districts — (*Contd*)	1873.				
DACCA DIVN — (*Contd*) 20	Backergunge	Nov. 22nd	Nil	Cool and pleasant	In the Patuakhally sub division the crops are generally good, though in some places they have been injured by insects and by the drought. The Collector reports to have never seen finer crops than some he saw near Galachipa Thannah. A fourteen-anna crop is expected in this subdivision. In Dublin Sabazpore the sub-divisional officer expects a ten-anna crop, but the Collector thinks more than that quantity. The crop has been injured in some places by insects, but in others it is very good, and on the road between Dhania Mania and Dowlut Khan a magnificient rice plain, many miles in extent, is seen, in the whole of which the crop was apparently at least an average one. The betel-nut cultivation, which is of great consequence in the island, has been very good this year. In the Sudder sub division the crops round about Burisal are tolerably good and generally a twelve-anna one is expected. In Jhalokate Thannah the crops are said to be bad. In Madareepore the crops on the high lands have suffered, but those in low lands are fair	Not very healthy.
21	Mymensing	" 22nd	Nil	No change since last week..	The prospects of the crops are on the whole not quite so favorable as last week.	
22	Sylhet	" 15th	Nil	Cold weather fairly setting in.	Unfavorable reports from Pergunnah Baniachung in Nabigunge thannah, and pergunnahs Atwajan, Kismut Atwajan, and Shaik Sonaita in Chattack thannah, and Pergunnahs Bualjur and Lakhipore in Tajpore thannah, where a blight has set in. Although last week the price of rice fell in the Sudder Bazar, there is a steady rise in price all over the district. Exportation is going on very largely.	
23	Cachar	" 16th	Nil	Fair and cool ..	Prospects of crops much the same. Insects have disappeared. Reaping will be commenced shortly. An outturn of ten annas on the average crop or more may be expected. Inquiries regarding the stock of rice in hand are being made.	
CHITTAGONG DIVISION. 24	Chittagong	" 15th	Nil	Bright and fine, with north-easterly winds. Nights clear and cool.	Generally favorable. Insects reported to have disappeared from Meerkaserai and Seetacoond. The prospects of the district harvest are fair, but prices are rising owing to the anticipated scarcity in Northern Bengal and Behar. Cox's Bazar return not received.	
25	Noakhally	" 15th	Nil	The cold weather has commenced.	In 106 of the 382 villages in Sudharam ten-anna of the (Rajshail and Chaplais) late paddy are said to have been destroyed, and similar loss is reported from 21 villages in Hatia. Loss of four annas of the crops is reported from Sundeep, Luckeepore, and Ameengunge, and some loss (nowhere said to exceed two annas) from the remaining thannahs of Ramgunge, Begumgunge, and Baumnie	

No.	District	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)						
	Eastern Districts.—(*Contd.*)	1873.				
CHITTAGONG DIVN. 26	Tipperah ..	Nov. 22nd	Nil	The weather is gradually growing cooler, though the heat is still greater than usual at this period. North wind blowing.	There is reason to think that the crops are not quite so bad as official reports have made them out. The fact is that the Police have not been able to distinguish between a bad crop for an average year and a good crop for a bad year. The canoongoes' reports from the south are re-assuring, and even in the centre of the district matters are believed to be better than was expected. No change reported from Bramunberiah except that the low land crop is being benefited by the heavy dews. The price of rice has fallen again below Rs. 2 which looks hopeful. Sub-divisional canoongoes' reports not yet to hand.	
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts	„ 15th	Nil	Heavy dews up to 8 A. M. in the morning and cool in the night.	The paddy crop has been reaped. The cotton is now beinggathered. The prospects of the cotton crop are good The mustard crop is now being sown. The prospects of the crops on the whole are not bad, although the outturn has not been equal to that of last year. There is no fear of scarcity, but there is not any stock over the local requirements for export.	
	Hill Tipperah ..	„ 15th	Nil	Bright and cool. No rain.	No change to report in the prospects. Here and there paddy cutting has commenced. The joom rice crop appears from recent inquiries to have been a fairly average one. But the cotton crop is not as full as usual.	
BEHAR.						
PATNA DIVISION. 28	Patna ..	„ 24th*	Nil	Morning and evening cool, days hot No rain.	Prospects of the district getting daily worse; the cold weather crop has generally germinated well, if it could only get rain to keep it Insects have appeared in many places and are eating off the young plants.	Health of the district good.
29	Gya ..	„ 22nd	Nil	Cool and fine. No rain has fallen in any part of the district.	The bulk of the paddy has perished, and the prospects of the cold weather crop continue bad. Rain is much wanted for the latter crop. In the western part of the Aurungabad sub-division, the eastern Sonne Canal has been opened recently, and it is hoped that the crops on the lands bordering upon it will be much benefited by it Prices have fallen to a slight extent since last week.	
30	Shahabad ..	„ 22nd	Nil	West wind. Weather cold and bright.	In Sasseeram sub-division canal irrigation continues. Some good has been effected in Bhuboosh by a bund on the Doorgooti. Insects reported in the cold weather crops in places. The cold weather crops in the northern portions of the head-quarters and Buxar sub-division promise well.	

* Telegram of the 24th November received on the 25th. Shows the rainfall during the seven days including the 15th idem.

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.		State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BEHAR —(*Contd.*)		1873					
31	Tirhoot ..	Nov 22nd	Nil	Cool	Cloudy at night	In the Sittamurhee sub-division the paddy on the ground is still suffering from the long drought. In places it has been cut and stacked for the use of the cattle and in places the ryots are making every effort to improve the paddy by irrigation. The new rice is not yet coming into the market The bajuns have abstained from sending their stored grains to market in order to make large profits hereafter. With the aid of irrigation from streams and tanks the general average yield of rice in the sub-division would be about four annas. The grain and rahur, kulthe pulses continue promising; caterpillars have injured the wheat in some places. Poppy coming up well where irrigation is possible. Much land will remain unsown if no rain falls during the month of Ughan (to middle of December). Should rain fall next month the cheena (millet) and moong (pulse) can be sown. In the Hajeepore sub-division a very small portion of the cold weather crop has been sown; the rest is left unsown for want of rain. In the Tajpore sub-division the cold weather crops on the Dearah lands are so far excellent. In the corner, north of the Bya, south of the Talbaryala, and west of the road west of Shawpore Barneghat, the rice will be quite six annas. There are also three or four churs south of Salimpore Murwah and north of Dembranda in which a five-anna crop may be expected. East of Dulsing serai there is the Rupowli chur which should give much the same yield. In the south-east corner of the sub-division the outturn may be yet two to three annas. There is also a little paddy between Dulsing serai and Nundnee which may yield four or five annas. Over all the rest of the sub-division the great majority of the paddy has been cut, the north being specially bare, and what yield there may be from what is on the ground is not worth taking into consideration. North of Tajpore, west of Tarbaryla, and to the east of the Dulsing serai road there is three or four annas of the cold weather crop still to be sown. In the centre and south, and south-west of the sub-division, there is less land lying fallow. All the light lands and half of the heavy lands have been sown, and ryots say that they can still sow for fifteen to twenty days the ordinary cold weather crops, and even after	Public health good. No complaints with regard to cattle.

PATNA DIVISION—(*Contd.*)

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
PATNA DIVISION.—(*Contd.*)					that cheena (millet) with rain within next fifteen days. There is nothing to prevent a nine or ten annas crop all round. On the Dearah it may well be sixteen annas, and in the south-west, about Puhora, it may be more than ten annas. But except in the Dearah everything depends upon rain within the next fifteen days The worse part of the sub-division is the north of Tajpore, *i.e.*, north of a line drawn from Nibi Dybycha to Samashpore. The rahur pulse is generally stunted, but the janera is better. Aus (potatoes) a very important crop, specially in the south-west, are at present poor and without rain cannot yield more than four annas *Suthus* (a sort of bulb) have been rather better In the Durbhangah sub-division close on fifteen annas of rice is gone. Prospects of the cold weather crop very bad No starvation as yet, though much pressure is being felt. Prices are generally the same as last week. The prospects of the crop in the Sudder sub-division are gloomy; the prices of food-grains are rising high. The cold weather crops sown have germinated, but are withering for want of moisture. In the Madhubani sub-division prospects have by no means improved. No rain as yet; unless it falls very soon there will be no cold weather crops, and even if it does there will be very little.	
	32 Sarun	Nov. 22nd	Nil	West wind prevailing .	There is nothing to add to former reports unless it be to record that with each successive week of continued drought prospects are of course becoming worse. Paddy, except on inconsiderable areas of low land, has altogether failed. Cold weather crops are being irrigated from wells wherever procurable. Many new wells have been dug, but these can hardly hold out if the drought continues. Price of rice has slightly fallen	
	33 Chumparun ..	„ 22nd	Nil	Cool weather; west winds prevailing.	The prospects of the late rice crop is very gloomy. The outturn is estimated at 2 annas. About 6 annas of the cold weather crop lands have been sown, and the remaining ten annas left uncultivated for want of moisture in the ground.	
BHAGULPORE DIVN	34 Monghyr ..	„ 22nd	Nil	Set fair ...	No change since last week. Much of the cold weather crop, which has sprung up, has been destroyed by ininsects which have multiplied enormously during the dry season. Similar unfavorable reports have been received from sub-divisions.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS.
BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
BHAUGULPORE DIVISION.—(*Contd.*)						
35	Bhaugulpore ...	Nov. 25th*	Nil	....	The early rice is being cut in Banka sub-division and prices falling. New rice selling at 17 seers. Northern sub-divisional officers report no change from previous week. Prospects of the cold weather crops generally good. The grain recently imported by train is now being sorted. Exportations still going on from all parts of the district.	General health remarkably good
36	Purneah ...	...	...	.....	...	Return not received.
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	" 22nd	Nil	Cold has now set in. Occasional clouds, but no rain or prospect of any.	From Deoghur sub-division it is reported that the Kurtick paddy is nearly all reaped and was poor in yield. No variation in the prospect of the late paddy. In Rajmehal the prospects of the cold weather crops are becoming worse; where seed has germinated it is likely to perish from drought, and in some places is being destroyed by insects.	
ORISSH.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
38	Cuttack ...	" 25th*	Nil	Weather cool ...	Prospects of crops good. The export of rice by merchants to different places for trade has raised slightly the market value.	Public health good
39	Pooree ...	" 15th	Nil	Fair and cool. No rain	The Loghu or second rice crop is being reaped with good outturn, and the harvest is nearing completion. Late rice is coming on. The present state and prospects are fair, and the produce is expected to be average. The cold weather crops are promising. Prices moderate. Advances for export of rice to Calcutta are being made in the Khoordha sub-division. Last year's stock of rice still holds out.	Public health rather bad owing to prevalence of dengue and intermittent fever.
40	Balasore ...	" 22nd	Nil	Seasonable ...	There is no change in the state and prospects of the crops since last week, *viz.* the crop will be little less than an average one for the whole district. Rice cutting as usual at this time of the year has commenced.	
CHOTA NAGPORE.						
	South-West Frontier Agency.					
41	Hazareebaugh ..	" 22nd	Nil	Cold and clear; no rain has fallen in any part of the district.	No change since last report. Complaints are received from all parts of the inability to sow the cold weather crops, owing to the dryness of the soil and water is scarce for artificial irrigation.	
42	Lohardugga ..	" 22nd	Nil	Bright and clear, with mornings and evenings cold; no signs of rain.	Things are very much in the same state as last week. As regards the greater portion of the Sudder Sub-division, there appears no reason to doubt the correctness of the general estimate made last week that there will be full two-thirds of an average crop; the only part of the Suder Sub-division, where there is fear of actual scarcity, is the Tori Pergunnah. Owing to the want of rain the prospects of the cold weather crops are very bad. In many places sowings	

* Telegram of the 25th November received on the same day. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	State and prospects of the crops at date.	Remarks.
CHOTA NAGPORE.—(*Contd*)						
	South-West Frontier Agency.—(*Contd*)	1873.				
					have not been made, and where they have been made the crops will be short, unless it rains very shortly. From Palamow the report states that a shorter crop even than was last reported may be expected. The paddy is not expected to be more than a four-anna. Pulse and teel (oil-seed) promise to be about seven or eight-anna crop. Not more than a four-anna of the cold weather crop has been sown. This promise well at present, but of course the outturn depends on an immediate fall of rain, without which there will not be a more than eight-anna crop.	
43	Singhbhoom	„ Nov 15th	Nil	Slight rain in the south of the Colehan about the beginning of the week. General rain very much wanted for the crops on the ground	With regard to Dhalbhoom, Seraikeyla, and Porahat, much the same as last report. There are good hopes that all the low land crops will be saved by the active measures in course to irrigate the fields, and the outturn is expected to be eight to ten-anna. Tarof Porchali only is very bad. In the Colehan the early crops have failed to the extent of half everywhere, and up to two-thirds in some few places. The low land crops are all more or less good, and will for the most part be saved. The winter crops in the south of the Colehan are turning out very badly. The pulses are all turning yellow and drying up for want of moisture The oil-seeds may be said to have completely failed. This part of the district in other years is generally a blaze of colour with mustard, &c., but this year a few scattered fields are all that can be seen.	
44	Maunbhoom	„ 22nd	Nil	Settled fine. Wind north west	The Nuan rice has been cut and a beginning has been made to cut the late rice, but it is too soon as yet to ascertain what the yield will be; it is, however, believed to be tolerably good, and that a half outturn on all round will be secured; the people are fully employed, and at present there is no distress. The hats, 41 in number, lately established, are all well attended, and rice and all other supplies freely sold at them They have been the means of keeping down prices very considerably and made food available to the poorer classes at reasonable rates.	
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.						
45	Goalparah	„ 15th	Nil	No signs of rain; weather cool; nights and mornings foggy.	Another dry week has passed and in consequence no material change to report Some places are worse off than others, and rain could do little good now to rice crops, but is wanted for winter crops.	

No.	District.	Date of return from each district.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather in the district as far as known.	States and prospects of the crops at date.	REMARKS
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.—(*Contd.*)		1873.				
46	Kamroop	Nov. 24th*	Nil	Mornings cold, raw, and misty; days dry and clear; slight north-east wind; nights clear, heavy dews.	The late rice and tea crops backward for want of rain. Cotton, sugarcane, mustard, and pulse progressing.	Public health good.
47	Durrung ..	" 15th	Nil	Fogs in the mornings, bright days, little breeze.	No rain. Crops drying up. No improvement since last report.	
48	Nowgong	" 15th	Nil	Weather cool and seasonable, with heavy dews at nights.	The late rice crop is poorer at the western end of the district than to the east of the sudder station, but still an average crop may be expected. Pulse doing fairly. Sugarcane and mustard doing well. Tea operations rapidly slackening. Tea-making season being nearly over	General health of the district excellent
49	Seebsaugor	" 15th	Nil	Weather cool; no indication of rain.	No rain has fallen during the week, and there has been no change in the prospect of the outturn of the rice crop If heavy rain comes now it might do harm to the rice, but it is wanted for the mustard cultivation as also tea.	
50	Luckimpore ...	" 15th	Nil	No rain during the week, the weather perceptibly cooler	Nothing new to report ..	Public health fair
51	Naga Hills ..	" 8th	Nil	Cold weather coming on fast, although the sun is still very hot at mid-day.	The crops in the hills could scarcely be better. The joom crops both of the Nagas and Kookies have yielded one of the best outturns known for years past, whilst the terrai crop of the Angamies promises to be a bumper one. In the plain the look-out continues to be a very bad one indeed, and the pathar crops can scarcely improve very much now.	
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills	" 15th	Rain did not fall in sufficient quantity to obtain a record	The weather has been bleak and cloudy, and on the night of the 14th instant a smart shower of rain fell at Shillong and its neighbourhood.	The rice crop has all been harvested, and the produce is already appearing in some of the markets. There is no scarcity in the hills, but as the [illegible] raised in the country is not sufficient to meet the wants of the inhabitants and a considerable quantity of rice has to be imported from the plains, from Sylhet, and from Assam, the price of the staple is rising in the markets owing to an expected scarcity in the plains. Though a good shower of rain has fallen in the hills, yet it is of no great consequence, as the cereals still standing are nearly ready for the sickle and do not require further moisture.	
53	Garo Hills ...	" 15th	Nil	Hazy throughout the week, very dry, but tolerably cool Nights cold and dew heavy. A few clouds have generally gathered about the Tura range during the afternoons, but soon dispersed again and not a drop of rain has fallen.	Vegetables, yams, and the like, besides cotton, are the only crops which remain uncollected in the hills; much less rice has been brought to Tura during past week from the Mymensingh side, and reports from that direction state that it is daily becoming more difficult to obtain supplies thence. A few of the inhabitants along the foot of the hills and traders still bring up small quantities of rice.	

* Telegram of the 24th November received on the 25th. Shows the rainfall during the seven days including the 25th instant.

Published for general information.

CALCUTTA, STATISTICAL DEPT.,
The 25th November 1873.

R. KNIGHT,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Govt. of {1873} Bengal.

STATISTICAL DEPT.

Progs. 1873.

File

No. B.

Statement showing rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops in the different districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 22nd November 1873.

MENTIONED DISTRICTS OF BENGAL ON THE 22nd NOVEMBER 1873.

THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire-wood.			Salt.			Remarks.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
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...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 13	12 13	15 4	64 0	64 0	64 0	8 6	8 0	7 4	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 0	16 0	16 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	8 0	8 0	8 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	12 0	14 0	280 0	280 0	...	7 8	7 8	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	11 0	11 0	18 0	...	...	...	8 8	8 12	9 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320 0	320 0	...	7 4	7 4	7 4	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	11 4	11 2	12 E	...	...	8 0	5 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	18 0	18 0	34 8	16 0	16 8	35 0	140 0	140 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	15 8	14 8	38 0	14 8	14 4	30 0	13 8	13 8	24 0	160 0	160 0	...	7 0	7 0	7 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	15 4	17 4	...	15 8	17 8	29 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 4	8 0	8 4	
...	...	...	18 0	19 to 20	...	16 8	17 to 18	...	15 0	15 to 16	23 0	140 0	140 0	...	7 12	7 12	7 8	
16 0	18 0	31 0	20 0	28 0	...	16 0	16 0	...	15 0	16 0	27 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	20 0	21 0	33 0	16 6	16 0	26 0	...	...	...	7 0	7 0	7 0	
...	...	...	20 0	30 0	40 0	17 11	17 11	37 14	15 12	17 0	26 8	176 12	176 12	174 0	8 3	8 3	8 3	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 0	12 0	22 0	200 0	200 0	160 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	
...	...	...	32 0 / ... / 28 0	...	...	20 0	21 0	40 0	16 0	16 0	19 0	480 0	480 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26 4	26 4	27 9	105 0	105 0	...	9 0	10 0	8 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	...	64 0	64 0	...	7 0	7 0	...	
...	...	...	19 0	18 0	...	17 8	17 8	33 0	12 0	12 0	20 8	320 0	200 0	...	7 4	6 8	7 0	
...	...	...	28 0	33 0	...	24 0	20 0	26 0	12 0	...	16 0	168 0	164 0	...	6 12	6 12	6 5	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	18 0	320 0	320 0	...	4 0	5 0	6 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40 0	13 0	13 0	18 0	320 0	320 0	320 0	7 8	7 8	7 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 0	12 0	8 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	13 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	200 0	200 0	...	6 8	6 8	6 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	10 0	...	...	...	6 8	6 8	6 8	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	10 0	8 0	120 0	160 0	...	6 8	6 8	6 0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	...	...	5 8	8 0	8 0	160 0	160 0	...	5 8	5 8	5 0	

* Published for general information.

R. KNIGHT,

Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT OF FOOD-GRAINS AND SALT IN THE UNDER

Number.	DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY																	
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			BUTRUSH MILLET—CUMBOO, BAJRA.		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
	BENGAL.															
	Western Districts.	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch.
1	Burdwan	10 12	10 8	12 0	14 0	20 0	21 0	13 8	13 4	19 8	14 8	15 8	23 0	...	...	...
2	Bancoorah	11 8	11 14	14 8	20 0	22 0	20 0	11 4	12 0*	15 0	A 14 8 B 15 0	15 0	17 8	...	...	..
3	Beerbhoom	10 8	12 0	14 0	...	...	...	12 0	12 12	16 8	15 0	16 8	19 8	...	...	...
4	Midnapore	10 0	10 4	10 8	...	...	...	A 14 0 B 17 8	15 8	19 8	A 20 0 B 21 4	20 0	24 0	...	...	...
5	Hooghly	11 0	11 0	13 0	...	...	...	9 0	10 0	13 0	12 0	13 12	18 0	...	...	...
	Howrah	12 0	11 0	13 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	11 0	11 0	16 0	13 4	14 0	19 0	...	...	...
	Central Districts.										C					
6	24-Pergunnahs ...	...	12 4	12 4	...	24 8	24 0	8 14	8 12	8 0	13 4	13 14	18 4	...	...	20 0
7	Nudden	11 7	11 7	14 8	20 0	21 12	32 0	11 7	11 7	16 0	13 5	13 5	17 5	...	...	...
8	Jessore	11 8	13 0	13 5	...	...	...	13 0	14 10	17 12	19 0	21 5	26 10	...	...	...
9	Moorshedabad ...	13 8	14 0	15 0	...	.	...	11 0	11 8	14 0	13 0	13 8	19 0	D 18 0	40 0	18 0
10	Dinagepore	11 0	11 0	13 8	16 0	16 0	22 8	12 8	11 0	22 0	14 8	14 8	28 0	...	...	...
11	Maldah	12 8	12 8	16 0	25 0	25 0	35 0	13 0	12 0	21 0	14 0	13 0	22 0	20 0	20 0	24 0
12	Rajshahye	10 8	10 8	15 0	24 0	26 4	30 0	11 0	12 0	15 0	12 12	13 8	22 8	...	...	...
13	Rungpore	9 6	10 3	11 4	..	...	...	10 2	10 2	14 10	13 0	11 13	22 8	...	...	...
14	Bograh	12 0	13 8	12 0	..	..	...	9 12	9 12	16 0	15 0	15 0	30 0	...	...	...
15	Pubna	15 0	15 0	16 0	...	...	...	12 0	12 0	12 0	17 0	16 8	30 0	...	...	...
16	Darjeeling	5 0	6 8	8 0	7 0	8 0	10 0	5 0	5 0	10 0	9 0	10 0	11 0	...	...	...
17	Julpigoree† ..	7 0	9 0	9 0	...	...	...	10 0	12 0	10 0	18 0	16 0	14 0	...	...	16 0
	Cooch Behar.*															
	Eastern Districts.															
18	Dacca	11 0	10 10	13 5	15 0	20 0	32 0	13 0	14 8	21 0	16 0	16 0	32 0	...	...	...
19	Furreedpore ...	16 0	16 0	21 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	10 0	17 0	16 8	26 0	...	...	...
20	Backergunge ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 5	14 0	18 0	19 0	19 0	27 8	...	...	...
21	Mymeneing ...	10 0	10 8	12 0	...	...	...	13 4	14 0	20 0	17 0	17 0	28 0	...	...	...
22	Sylhet†	9 0	10 0	11 0	8 0	11 8	...	16 0	18 4	23 0	23 0	27 0	33 8	...	...	...
23	Cachar†	9 2	9 2	9 2	...	...	...	13 5	16 0	16 0	20 0	26 10	29 1	...	...	...
24	Chittagong † ...	8 0	8 0	14 0	...	...	...	13 0	16 0	17 0	20 0	21 0	22 0	...	...	...
25	Noakhally † ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	18 0	21 0	22 0	24 0	...	...	...
26	Tipperah †	9 0	9 0	11 0	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	20 0	20 to 22	21 to 23	32 8	...	...	...
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts †	...	...	...	..	...	...	13 13	13 13	13 13	16 0	16 0	16 0	...	...	...
	Hill Tipperah ...	8 8	8 8	10 6	...	...	...	14 5	16 0	28 6	17 7	20 0	40 0	...	...	...
	BEHAR.															
28	Patna	11 8	11 8	24 0	17 0	18 0	31 4	11 8	12 0	..	12 8	13 0	21 0	...	...	...
29	Gya	10 0	10 0	15 0	15 0	14 0	30 0	8 8	8 8	12 8	10 8	9 8	19 0	...	...	...
30	Shahabad ...	11 8	11 8	15 8	15 0	18 0	28 0	12 0	12 0	15 8	12 8	13 0	18 4		...	...
31	Tirhoot	10 0	10 to 11	15 0	18 0	19 0	20 0	9 8	10 8	14 8	9 12	11 to 12	15 8	17 0	19 0	...
32	Sarun	12 0	12 0	13 8	17 0	18 0	30 0	8 8	8 0	14 0	11 0	10 0	20 0	...	...	...
33	Chumparun ..	11 0	11 8	16 0	19 0	20 0	34 0	9 0	9 0	13 0	12 0	13 8	27 0	...	...	...
34	Monghyr.*															
35	Bhaugulpore ...	12 0	12 0	15 2	20 3	20 8	24 0	10 1	10 1	15 2	13 14	13 14	16 15	...	...	...
36	Purneah	10 0	10 0	16 0	.	...	40 0	10 0	10 0	18 0	11 0	11 0	25 0	...	...	...
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs	11 0	11 0	15 0	...	..	...	11 0	11 0	16 0	13 0	13 0	16 0	20 0	21 0	30
	ORISSA.															
38	Cuttack.*															
39	Pooree	15 1	14 7	15 12	...	...	...	23 10	23 10	29 9	34 2	32 13	37 12	...	...	...
40	Balasore	12 0	12 0	...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	...	21 0	26 0	...	...	...	...
	CHOTA NAGPORE.															
	South-West Frontier Agency.															
41	Hazareebaugh ...	10 0	9 8	14 0	...	16 0	...	10 0	8 0	12 0	14 0	12 0	17 0	...	...	...
42	Lohardugga ...	11 0	11 0	11 0	..	.	16 0	11 0	10 0	20 0	17 0	16 0	22 0	...	...	...
43	Singbhoom	14 0	16 0	18 0	20 0	20 0	...	14 0	12 0	32 0	18 0	16 0	36 0	...	...	...
44	Maunbhoom ...	11 0	11 0	13 0	...	..	24 0	17 0	16 0	24 0	18 0	17 0	26 0	...	...	...
	ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.															
45	Goalpara†	12 0	10 0	16 0	...	...	...	11 0	11 0	12 0	12 0	16 0	20 0	...	...	...
46	Kamroop†	13 0	13 0	16 0	...	...	...	11 0	16 0	16 0	13 8	20 0	20 0	...	...	...
47	Durrung†	10 0	10 0	10 0	...	...	..	10 0	10 0	13 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	...	...	...
48	Nowgong	16 0	16 0	16 0	...	...	...	11 0	11 0	12 0	16 0	16 0	18 0	.	...	...
49	Seebsaugor† ...	6 0	6 0	12 0	...	...	16 0	10 0	8 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	20 0	...	...	...
50	Lukhimpore.*															
51	Naga Hills.*															
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills†	...	....	...	...	...	...	8 0	10 0	13 0	9 0	12 0	13 8	...	...	...
53	Garo Hills.*															

* Return not received.
† Return for week ending 15th November 1873 received after the publication of the last Gazette.
A Old.
B New.
C Price of common rice at the several sub-divisions ranges from 12-8 to 16 seers per rupee.
D In some sub-divisions.
E Bundles.

CALCUTTA,
The 25th November 1873.

Circular No. 87.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE MAGISTRATE-COLLECTOR OF

Calcutta, the 24th November, 1873.

SIR,

THE Lieutenant-Governor much desires that the extra reports demanded from district officers during the coming season of distress should be as few as possible. He has accordingly reviewed the orders which have issued during the last few weeks, calling for additional or for amplified periodical reports upon the state of the crops and the condition of the country.

2. The several orders calling for these reports have been as follows:—

(1) Circular No. 70, dated 13th October, 1873, directing special care in the preparation of the weekly weather report and price-current, and asking for *a further special crop report in the first week of November, December, and January.*

(2) Circular No. 76, dated 7th November—(*a*) directing any Collector whose head-quarters may be on a telegraph line to report by telegram any considerable rainfall or other material change in the prospects of the crops or condition of the people; (*b*) directing any Collector not on a telegraph line to send such information by post; (*c*) directing that all Collectors should for the present send a *weekly* instead of *fortnightly* price-current in the usual form.

(3) Circular No. 77, dated 13th November, asking for comparison between the outturn of the crops in the season 1865-66 and the estimated yield of the present season.

(4) Circular No. 78, dated 14th November, sending tables of rainfall and prices for each district for former years, and asking to have them verified and corrected.

(5) Circular No. 79, dated 15th November, desiring special care in the preparation of price-currents during the present season, and citing instances of what are believed to be errors in previous price-currents.

(6) Circular No. 80, dated 17th November, 1873, declaring the policy of Government and conveying general instructions; asks for—

(*a*) Reports from Commissioners of distressed divisions as to the relief works proposed, the establishments to be entertained thereon, the monthly expenditure probably to be incurred (paragraph 10).

(*b*) Reports from Commissioners of distressed divisions as to the sites chosen for storage of grain, and the steps taken to prepare storehouses (paragraph 13).

(*c*) Reports from Commissioners of distressed divisions regarding the means of transport and arrangements for improving the same (paragraph 14).

(d) Reports from Commissioners of distressed divisions as to the places selected for relief committees and relief centres in each distressed district (paragraph 18).

(e) Reports from five Commissioners as to their distribution to their districts of the allotment for advances (paragraph 25).

(f) A weekly narrative of events from distressed districts beginning with Monday, the 1st December (paragraph 27).

(7) Circular No. 81, dated 19th November, asking that particulars as to the estimated grain stocks might be forwarded with the special report due (under Circular No. 70 of 13th October) in the first week of December.

(8) Letter No. 3476, dated 17th November, asking that Collectors in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions would add to their special report for December (Circular No. 70 of 13th October) full information as to the extent, state and prospects of the rubbee crops of 1874.

(9) Letter No. 3566, dated 22nd November, also to the Collectors of the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions, drawing attention to what was said in November, 1865, regarding the prospects of the 1866 rubbee crops, and begging that Collectors will discriminate between rubbee crops that are unsown or are actually dead, and those which have germinated and can be revived by December showers.

3. This list of requisition for reports looks somewhat long, and the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to reduce it as far as he reasonably can do so. But at the same time the Government must be acquainted, as far as possible, with the state of the country, and must receive information of what is done from time to time under the orders issued regarding relief measures.

Circular No. 79.
Circular No. 81.
Letter No. 3476.
Letter No 3566.

4. If the list of requisitions given above be examined it will be seen that Nos.* (5), (7), (8), and (9) of the orders summarised in the foregoing paragraph do not ask for extra reports, but merely specify certain heads of information; and indicate the need for precision on certain points in the special monthly reports (Circular No. 70 of 13th October) and in the weekly price-currents. It will be seen that Nos.† (2), (3), (4), and clauses *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, of No. (5) merely call for special or occasional reports which will either be made once for all, or else will be very occasional and brief. The only exception is clause 3 of Circular No. 76, which orders a weekly instead of a fortnightly price-current. But this extra demand will, it is hoped, give little trouble, when once a system of getting a really reasonable and true list of *actual* retail prices has been organised.

† Circular No. 76.
Circular No. 77.
Circular No. 78.
Circular No. 80, paragraphs 10, 13, 14, 18, and 25.

5. There remain, then, only the following periodical crop, &c., reports, namely—

A.—The special monthly report due *from all districts* under Circular No. 70, dated 13th October, which must be submitted until countermanded.

B.—The weekly crop and weather report, which is sent in for the *Gazette* under previous standing orders, and which is always made in ordinary years *from all districts*.

C.—The *weekly* instead of the fortnightly price-current (Circular No. 76, clause 3) *from all districts*.

D.—The weekly narrative ordered *from distressed districts* by Circular No. 80, paragraphs 27-28.

The Lieutenant-Governor, on a reconsideration of the matter, considers that it will be sufficient if Government gets a *fortnightly, and not a weekly*, narrative of the kind described at paragraphs 27-28 of Circular No. 80; and therefore he directs that these narratives be submitted fortnightly only. The first should be *despatched* from each distressed district by the post of Monday, the 1st December, and thereafter should be sent on each alternate Monday. When the fortnightly narrative goes off about the same time as the special monthly crop

report (No. A of this paragraph), then the notice of crops and prospects given in the special monthly report need not be repeated at length in the fortnightly narrative, but can be merely referred to. The Lieutenant-Governor particularly requests that the fortnightly narrative may be despatched without fail on the days named.

6. The foregoing paragraph refers to district reports only; the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to receive from the Commissioners of the divisions named* at paragraph 25 of Circular No. 80, a fortnightly narrative or summary of what they may have done, or what they may have sanctioned, or ordered, or what they may have learnt regarding the scarcity, or distress, or relief. The Commissioners' reports should be sent on alternate weeks to the district narrative; and they will thus be despatched on Monday, the 8th December, and on each succeeding alternate Monday. The Commissioners need not summarise the district reports of the preceding fortnight, but they should give a general review of the state of and action taken in the divisions under each of the five heads into which the Government action is divided in Circular No. 80; they should state at length the Commissioners' own action in respect of purchases of grain, of advances for grain importation, or for improvements, of food storage and of food transport, and should narrate any special facts or incidents which may have come to light on the Commissioners' tours through the distressed districts.

* Burdwan, Rajshahye, Patna, Bhaugulpore, Chota Nagpore

7. These orders, which reduce the special reports to the lowest possible limit, are issued on the understanding that Commissioners and Magistrate-Collectors of distressed or other districts will report specially at their discretion on any matters which may require sanction, or any specially alarming or reassuring facts or symptoms which may come to their knowledge.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

No. 3569.

FROM THE OFFG. SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF BURDWAN, RAJSHAHYE, PATNA, BHAUGULPORE, AND CHOTA NAGPORE.

Calcutta, the 22nd November 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

AT paragraphs 5 and 6 of this office circular No. 80, dated the 17th November, are mentioned some of the principal imperial and local works the early prosecution of which as relief works has been sanctioned. At paragraph 7 of the same circular, it is stated that copies of the replies received to circular No. 27 of June 1872 would be printed and circulated, so that divisional and district officers might have by them lists of the roads and other works which have been selected, estimated for, and kept as possible relief works.

2. I am now to forward copies of the report received from you in reply to the above-mentioned circular, and to say (as is stated in the recent circular) that the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that "sufficient employment will be everywhere provided" for any destitute classes of your division, by the early commencement of work on the roads and other undertakings mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the circular, as well on selected roads out of the present lists, or on additional roads if necessary. As prices will be high everywhere, these roads should in all cases be pushed on so far as the district funds admit. It will be understood that the permission to go beyond this limit is confined to the tracts where there has been great failure of crops and distress among the labouring classes may be apprehended.

3. As it is desirable that officers and road committees should know what roads are proposed in neighbouring districts, copies of all the reports from the above-named divisions are circulated to the officers of each. The Lieutenant-Governor's special remarks on each divisional list are as follow:—

4. *Burdwan Division.*—The existing and proposed roads in the several districts of this division are mostly shown clearly on maps and are not described in the covering letters. It is not stated how far the plans and estimates for such roads are actually prepared. Taking the districts in order, the Lieutenant-Governor finds—

the *Burdwan* map shows as existing fourteen metalled and twenty-three unmetalled roads; the Magistrate indicates only three roads, which are either new or entirely out of repair, as fit for prosecution as special famine roads. The repairs, however, of the old roads with these few new roads ought to afford ample work for present needs;

the *Bancoorah* map shows this district to be exceedingly bare of existing roads compared to its neighbours. The Magistrate sketches twelve new cross country roads connecting the principal places. These roads may be well chosen, but it does not appear that as yet anything has been done towards surveys or estimates:

Beerbhoom has already a very good road system, except in the west of the district, where the six new roads are proposed as relief works. On all these roads there should be plenty of work to do.

Midnapore seems to be already well provided with roads, having altogether twenty-one district roads besides the three great provincial roads through Midnapore. The Magistrate's map shows only six short lengths of road still to be done as new works. But on many of the old lines there must be much work to be done.

Hooghly and Howrah.—As there is one District Road Committee for the joint district, it has been treated as a single charge in the reply to the circular of June 1872. The Magistrate of Hooghly mentions nine new roads which can be undertaken as famine works, estimates for which are prepared or under preparation: he says that there is a large net-work of existing roads (remnants of the time when Hooghly was a great silk and indigo district) to be kept in repair. There seems to be more lack of roads in the Mohesreka direction than elsewhere. The Magistrate rightly says that the great object should be "to connect the principal paths and villages with the main roads by tracks capable of carrying a country cart." If such petty village works can be effected by the Road Committees, they will form the very best relief works possible.

5. *Rajshahye Division.*—The Rajshahye divisional reply contains no list or description of the suggested famine roads. The maps furnished for all districts except Moorshedabad (for which no map has been sent) show the roads present and proposed. But it is not clear which roads are *existing*, which are *proposed*, and which are to be *special relief* roads. Moreover, the scheme of roads north of the Ganges must certainly be revised with reference to the Northern Bengal Railway. Rungpore certainly will not want a good road running north and south, almost parallel to the railway. Bograh again shows only two proposed roads, and they both go from the sudder to the Brahmapootra, whereas feeder roads to the railway will be the greatest desiderata. So with Dinagepore and western Rajshahye: feeder roads to the railway stations from the chief marts, aligned so as to cross as few big rivers as possible, will be the chief works to be pressed on. The emigration roads from Dinagepore westwards, southwestwards and eastwards, will of course be pushed on, independently of the railway feeders.

Under these circumstances the scheme of relief works for the Rajshahye Division across the Ganges will have to be made out afresh in supersession of the projects submitted by the Officiating Commissioner in October 1872. The Lieutenant-Governor would, however, invite the special attention of the Commissioner to the need of having the Moorshedabad* scheme of relief roads put promptly into such a shape that it can at once be begun where necessity may arise.

* For this district no map or list of relief roads has reached Government.

5. *Patna Division.*—The Patna Division list of roads and maps are complete; but they do not show the recently-ordered emigration roads. The works in the Patna district are, very properly, scattered all over the district. The Gya Magistrate has now in hand (either laid out or being laid out) many other roads besides the two named in the Commissioner's list of February last. In the Shahabad district relief works will be required in the Bhubooah subdivision. The present list will therefore have to be much amplified for the purposes of the coming year, if the worst comes upon this division.

6. *Bhaugulpore Division.*—The proposed roads shown on the map of the Bhaugulpore district are extremely few, and there is not a single proposed road in the Mudheypoorah sub-division. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to know that many more roads than were shown in these maps are now being staked out and actually begun in the north of Bhaugulpore. The Monghyr scheme of roads shown on the map is fairly complete; the emigration roads have to be added, especially the direct road from Purneah due (or nearly due) westward to the crossing of the Koosee. This road is marked on

the old divisional map of suggested roads prepared about the year 1863. In that map the road westward from Purneah to Dhumdaha is marked No. 7 on the Purneah district list, while the road which crosses the Koosee almost in a direct line between Purneah and Mudheypoorah is marked No. 8. The present map shows a considerable number of relief roads for the Sonthal Pergunnahs; but it is observed that no feeder roads are proposed from the Sonthal Pergunnahs to any station on the chord line south of Deoghur, or towards any station on the loop line south of Moorarce.

7. *Chota Nagpore Division.*—The Commissioner's letter gives a list of the relief roads proposed for Hazareebaugh and Maunbhoom, while the maps show the roads for Singbhoom and Lohardugga. The Lieutenant-Governor considers the scheme of roads may be adopted as it has been approved by Colonel Dalton; he notices, however, that no road is proposed between the town of Lohardugga and the mart Chattra in the Hazareebaugh district. As none, or hardly any, of these roads have been surveyed for or estimated, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that these very necessary preliminaries may be pushed on for roads situate in any tracts where distress is likely to appear. So far as the reports up to date go, and judging from the experience of 1869, we may perhaps anticipate that Palamow will be as badly off as any tract in the whole division. But the Lieutenant-Governor would leave it entirely to Colonel Dalton's discretion on which road surveys should be begun.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3570.

COPY, with enclosures, forwarded to the Public Works Department of this Government for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 22nd November 1873.

W. E. B.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

Calcutta, the 25th November 1873.

READ—

The Government orders passed in 1868 regarding the control to be exercised over relief works by the Public Works Department and the Civil Department of the Government.

Also—

Paragraph 28 of circular No. 80 of the 17th November, promising to prescribe forms for—

1. Relief work expenditure.
2. Food-purchase ,,
3. Transport ,,
4. Grain-storage ,,
5. Charitable relief or poor-house expenditure.

RESOLUTION.—By paragraph 28 of circular No. 80 of the 17th November, Commissioners are authorised to sanction the commencement of works, in anticipation of the orders of Government, wherever there may be urgent need for such a course, in order to give employment to distressed laborers. Under the orders* of the Public Works Department, Commissioners in ordinary times have power to sanction any local or provincial work, for which funds are at the disposal of the district committees up to a limit of Rs. 10,000 for a single work.

* No. 36, dated 8 [illegible]

2. The Lieutenant-Governor now directs that for any relief work, for which the funds at the disposal of the district committees do not suffice, or which is to cost more than Rs. 10,000, application must be made to Government in the Civil Department (Scarcity and Relief). The application must state—

(1) the district or districts in which the work lies;
(2) the nature and description of the works, specifying whether (wholly or mainly) earthwork, and whether brickwork or metalling is comprised;
(3) whether the Commissioner recommends the work in full or in part;
(4) the amount of the estimate as recommended by the Commissioner;
(5) generally the objects of the work, the tract of country and probable number of persons to which it will give work; whether any other works are already being carried on in the neighbourhood.

This information may conveniently be given in a tabular form (see annexure A). But it will be remembered by Commissioners of distressed divisions that the need for submitting this application and information does not take away the authority entrusted to them (paragraph 28 of circular No. 80 as quoted above) to sanction the commencement of any relief work in anticipation of the orders of Government in urgent cases.

3. On the receipt of applications for relief works in the Civil Department, the Chief Engineer will, if necessary, be consulted. When an application has been approved, the professional control of and accounts of such works will be under the Public Works Department. Orders of the Government will issue, and references regarding such matters must be made to the Secretary in that Department. But Commissioners should still address the Civil Department regarding proposals for extensive additions to, or alterations in, works already sanctioned. But on all questions regarding the execution of works already in hand, the employment and payment of laborers, and the distribution of food to laborers after it has been carried to the spot, the Magistrate and the Commissioner will take the orders of Government in the Public Works Department. All relief works, regarding which no special separate orders issue, will be carried on by the local and Public Works officers under the rules applicable to district works, and will, for all purposes, be treated as district works.

4. As soon as the works necessary for relief of a district go, or are likely to go, beyond the resources of the district committee, the Magistrate will apply, through the Commissioner, to the Civil Department (Scarcity and Relief) of Government, explaining what has been done and is proposed to be done, the funds expended, in hand, and expected, and the amount likely to be required, and funds will be placed at the disposal of Magistrates to supplement the district funds.

5. In regard to the entertainment of extra establishments for engineering or supervision, the orders in paragraph 28 of circular No. 80 gives full discretion to local officers in emergent cases, subject to immediate report. The cost of all such establishment will be charged against the works on which they may be employed. Works undertaken for relief purposes should not as a rule be executed by large contract; ordinarily the people should be employed either by petty contract or daily pay. Arrangements as to the classes of laborers to be employed, as to the payment of rates or wages, and other matters connected therewith, should be in general accordance with the rules contained in the appended extract from the Public Works Code, Chapter XIIIA. But particular rules on this subject will be issued by the Public Works Department.

6. A daily record of the number of persons of each class employed on each work, or in cases where work extends over many miles for each length of such work, must be maintained, and abstracts of such returns must be forwarded to the Public Works Department once a fortnight, in the manner laid down by instructions to be issued from that Department. Forms of registers and returns for *relief work expenditure*, over and above the ordinary district works forms and registers, will be prescribed by the Public Works Department.

7. Registers and returns, with detailed instructions regarding the other four kinds of expenditure mentioned at the head of this Resolution, are being printed for circulation. But the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it undesirable to delay the issue of these orders until the forms are ready.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3627.

COPY forwarded to the Public Works Department, with the request that fortnightly totals of the returns of laborers employed on relief works in each district may be furnished to this (the Scarcity and Relief) Department; that all important details of arrangements made by the Public Works Department may be communicated to this Department; and that all communications to the Government of India regarding relief works may be made through this Department. Orders regarding the accounts to be kept, or regarding any matters connected with accounts on relief works, will be conveyed through the Public Works Department.

No. 3628.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioners of Rajshahye, Patna, and Bhaugulpore for information, and for communication to the district officers of distressed districts.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 25th November 1873.

W. E. B

Annexure A to Bengal Government Order No. 3628, dated the 25th November, 1873.

Name of District.	Nature of Work.	Amount of estimate.	Whether recommended by Commissioner in whole, in part, or not at all.	Amount.	Orders of Government.	REMARKS. (To be entered by Local Officers and by Commissioner.)

Section i A.—Sanitary Rules on Extensive Works.

1 The head of each local Government and Administration will cause a set of special rules to be drawn up with the object of preventing outbreaks of disease, and arresting and alleviating the intensity of epidemics, in general accordance with the following paragraphs. Copies of these rules and of any alterations in them should be forwarded to the Government of India for information.

Sanitary rules to be framed.

2. The great requisites for preserving the health of the work-people may be conveniently considered under the four heads,—of *houses*, *food*, *water*, and *conservancy*. The measures which should be adopted on the actual appearance of disease, and especially of any disease likely to assume an epidemic form, will be separately discussed.

Requisites to be considered.

3. Huts of bamboos and grass can be constructed at little expense in most parts of the country, and they will be amply sufficient for the accommodation of the work-people.

Houses for work-people.

4. In erecting them, it is of great importance to select a good site. High ground removed from jungle, but well provided with trees, ought to be chosen wherever it is available. The neighbourhood of rank jungle, grass, or weeds, is particularly to be avoided.

Their sites;

5. The houses themselves should be raised on an earthen plinth of 2 feet, and with open spaces of at least 10 yards between the different rows. When a good natural site cannot be procured, the drainage should be particularly attended to. Whenever, owing to unavoidable circumstances, the huts occupy a situation in a low swampy or otherwise unhealthy situation, the sides should be carefully *leeped* or thinly plastered with mud so as to exclude the night air, and in such circumstances it will also be advisable that the people should sleep on raised cots or *machans*.

And mode of construction.

6. It is very important that there should be no overcrowding; each person should be allowed at least 50 superficial feet, and care should be taken to see that the houses are kept clean and in good order, and that not less than the space above-mentioned is really provided.

Superficial area to be given.

7. As regards food, in most parts of India no difficulty will be experienced in providing a good and sufficient supply. In many cases no special arrangements will be necessary, as the coolies will be able to draw their supplies from a neighbouring market without any difficulty. Wherever no such facilities exist, it will be advisable to organize a bazar, and to see that the food provided is proper, both as regards quantity and quality. In this respect it is of importance also to secure a sufficient variety, and, in addition to the ordinary staple articles of atta, rice, dhall, ghee, and condiments, such valuable additions to diet as goats, fowls, and vegetables, should not be omitted.

Food.

8. Good and pure drinking water is of hardly less consequence than good food. Well water is generally to be preferred as being more free from impurities. The wells should be sunk in such a situation as will prevent their being contaminated by sewage. They should be reserved for supplying drinking water, and no person should be allowed to bathe over, or even near, them. Where the water is drawn from tanks, similar precautions should be adopted. The tank should be kept for supplying drinking water, and no persons should be allowed to wash either their bodies or their clothes in it.

Water.

9. General cleanliness of the lines and their vicinity should be enforced. As the encampment will probably be constantly moving with the progress of the works, it does not appear advisable to establish regular latrines. Under the circumstances the trench system is most suitable. Every morning one or more fresh trenches should be dug, according to the number of people to be provided for. They should not be deeper than 18 inches, and should be covered in daily. In selecting a place for these trenches, it is indispensable that they should be removed, as far as possible, consistent with convenience, from the water-supply. The system has no other danger than contamination of the water, and it can be effectively carried out at very little expense.

Conservancy.

10 The precautions noted under these different headings, if carefully attended to, are calculated to secure the health of the people employed. It is now necessary to consider what measures should be adopted in the event of sickness appearing among them.

11. Wherever any large body of coolies is collected together it will be advisable to appoint a native doctor, and provide a small hospital In most cases a central establishment will be sufficient for several miles of works. The hospital should be reserved for treating accidents and cases of a trifling nature, in which complete recovery may be soon expected As a rule, it will be better to transfer the sick suffering from more severe illness to the neighbouring station, where they can be looked after in the dispensary.

Appointment of native doctors

12. These remarks apply more particularly to ordinary cases of sickness. Those diseases which are liable to become epidemic require separate attention. Under this head there are only three which need be considered. They are small-pox, cholera, and contagious fever.

Small-pox.

13. Small-pox is rarely epidemic among adult natives On the appearance of any case, no matter how slight, the patient should at once be removed to a small-pox hospital, if one exists in the neighbouring station If there is no special hospital for the reception of such cases, the sick man must be isolated in a separate hut, well removed from the rest of the people, and all communication between it and the camp must as far as possible be cut off. On his becoming convalescent, he should be provided with new clothes, and sent to his home; on convalescence or death, his clothing and all other infected articles ought to be destroyed.

Cholera.

14. The occurrence of a case of cholera has a different significance according to the part of the country, and the particular time of year at which it occurs. Under any circumstances, however, the appearance of even one case of the disease should not be lightly thought of. The care taken in the conservancy arrangements should be redoubled; the patient should be isolated, and his discharges disinfected. Cholera pills should be freely distributed, so that cases of diarrhœa may be treated without delay. If the disease becomes epidemic, that portion of the encampment which has been attacked should be removed without delay, and if the attack has not been limited to any particular locality, it will be advisable to remove the whole of the people elsewhere. A move of even one or two miles often suffices.

Contagious fever.

15. Contagious fever in the Upper Provinces ought not to be lost sight of. Great and rapid prostration, attended with jaundice, ought always to excite suspicion and call for great care. On the occurrence of such a case the patient should at once be isolated, and every precaution taken by preventing communication with the sick persons, and by the use of disinfectants to prevent its spread. On the appearance of any contagious fever a change of ground for the whole body of the workmen is very desirable.

Superior medical supervision.

16 The question of medical supervision has already been incidentally alluded to. It will be advisable, as has been already stated, that a native doctor, with a small hospital, should be attached to each large gang, or set of gangs, of work-people. It is also necessary that he should be under supervision. Whenever circumstances admit of it, the camp should be frequently visited by the civil surgeon of the district. Even when distant from his head-quarters, it is very desirable that he should pay at least one visit in the month to ascertain that the native doctor is carrying on his duties properly, and also to satisfy himself that the sanitary arrangements are good. A weekly report should be submitted by the native doctor to the civil surgeon. He would thus be informed of what was going on, and on the occurrence of any emergency, his services would always be available when called for by the engineer in charge.

Responsibility of superintending Engineers.

17. It is the duty of Superintending Engineers to see that the general orders on the subject of health are duly carried out.

Outlay on sanitary arrangements.

18. Any reasonable outlay for such temporary cover as may be needed for bodies of work-people of considerable magnitude, and the marking out, clearing, and draining of their temporary stations; also for entertaining some small temporary establishment to look after the latrines, one or two policemen, and hospital establishments, may be authorized by local Governments and Administrations, as forming part of the contingent outlay on the work under execution.

Chapter XIIIA.

Measures to be adopted in time of Famine.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Classes to be relieved and employed on works

Para. 6. The grant of relief will, in all cases in which it is possible, whether the claimant is a man, woman, or child, be made contingent on some labor being given in exchange. This will not apply to casual cases of distress which demand immediate help.

7. The persons asking for relief should be classified according to their capacity for work, and those only fit for such labor as is commonly performed on public works should be given employment of that description.

8. The class of persons not capable of employment on public works should receive relief in special relief or poor-houses organized for the purpose under the local civil authorities; and such persons should be transferred from time to time, from any works on which they may be found, to the nearest poor-house.

Mode of paying wages when given in money.

9. Persons employed on relief works should usually be paid in cash, and not supplied with food directly. It will, however, be essential for the superintending officer to satisfy himself in all cases in which money wages are given, that the arrangements for the supply of food are such as to enable all the

laborers to purchase what they require with reasonable convenience, and within a moderate distance of the works. If these conditions cannot be complied with by the agency of private dealers, measures should be taken for opening relief stores or shops, at which food, &c., may be sold, or supplied in fixed quantities, as thought best.

10. Money wages should be only just sufficient to purchase the quantity of food which it is thought proper to allow to the several classes of persons employed, or which would be supplied if food was distributed instead of money.

11. The rates commonly given on former occasions have been—

Adult man	...	...	...	1½ annas daily.
Woman	...	...	...	1 anna „
Child	...	...	..	½ „ „

12. It is specially important to take care that, if higher rates are allowed than the above, a day's work is given in return of the full value of the wages paid Nothing should be done to attract persons to relief works by wages high in proportion to the work performed, the object being to give a mere subsistence, and nothing more.

13. Payments of cash or distributions of food on relief works should be made daily, and not at longer intervals.

14. To facilitate payments and the check of the number of persons employed, the laborers should be organized in gangs of convenient strength, placed under a headman, who might receive wages without personal labor.

15. Payments of money wages should, as far as possible, be personally supervised by an European officer, or other person of undoubted integrity.

16. It will rarely be possible to adopt the task-work system on relief works, or to make the payment directly depend on the quantity of work done. It is an essential condition that enough to support life shall be given whatever be the physical powers of the laborer, and all that can be expected is to take reasonable precautions to prevent deliberate idleness or refusal to work.

Arrangements to be made when food is supplied.

17. When arrangements cannot be made for the supply of food by the aid of ordinary dealers, the superintending officer of the works must take the supply into his own hands, under such orders as may be issued by the local Government with respect to the manner of purchasing what is needed. The district civil officers will usually be the most suitable agency for directing such purchases.

18. When food is distributed to work-people instead of money wages, it will usually be convenient to issue tickets or tokens to those entitled to receive them, to be exchanged at the store-room for the regular allowance of grain, &c. Otherwise great delay and inconvenience is likely to be occasioned by the distribution.

19. It may be proper when food is supplied to give fuel also, if there is difficulty in procuring it; or to give cooked food if prejudices do not stand in the way. Disease is very likely to be caused by eating uncooked grain.

20. The food offered should, as far as circumstances will admit, be that to which the people are accustomed. The cooking should be conducted with proper regard to caste prejudices.

21. The quantity of food which has been given on former occasions and found sufficient is as follows:—

				Adult man. ozs	Child above ten. ozs.	Child below ten. ozs.
Flour	..	..	..	16	12	8
Vegetables	..	..	..	4	2	2

The above weights are for the food before being cooked. Women generally require something less than men.

Huts and conservancy.

22. When laborers are employed on relief works with a prospect of continued occupation being necessary for them, suitable temporary huts should be provided for their shelter. Such shelter can commonly be put up by the people themselves, if allowed to reckon the time occupied as though they had been employed on regular work, and paid accordingly.

23. Due attention should be paid to the ordinary precautions for securing cleanliness in the neighbourhood of the localities where the people are hutted. Special sanitary rules are given in chapter XIII, section 1 A, and these should receive careful attention.

Clothing.

24. Clothing may be given as well as food, also medical treatment when practicable.

Inspections and returns of persons employed.

25. Frequent inspections of the work and work-people should be made by the superintending officers, and reports submitted on their condition. The conduct of the subordinate officials employed should be carefully watched, and all irregularities promptly checked. When food is distributed, its quality should be periodically examined, and the supplies in the dealers' shops should also be inspected to ensure its being of a wholesome quality.

26. The work done should be measured at short intervals so as to guard against abuses Daily returns of the number of laborers should be kept, and some system of classification followed, to show the classes to which they belong, and the places whence they come.

27. Relief works under the direction of the Public Works Department will be carried out in general accordance with the rules of the Department so far as circumstances will admit. Regular monthly accounts of all disbursements must be rendered with the usual punctuality, and the quantity of work done must be measured periodically.

Management of works wholly carried out under the Public Works Department.

28. Any loss or increased expense which arises in the execution of a work being carried out under estimates, from the want of skill or strength of the laboring classes employed on it, must be treated as a special charge due to the relief operations. The amount of this loss must be estimated as closely as possible in each case.

29. All needful special establishments should be entertained to secure the vigilant supervision of the works, and the prompt and regular submission of the accounts of Public Works officers in charge of relief works. Such establishment may be provisionally authorized by Superintending Engineers, subject to the final orders of the local Government.

30. All that is possible should be done to distribute the supervising agency of engineers available under each local Government in the manner most likely to give efficiency to extraordinary operations undertaken to employ the population. Works of minor importance may be suspended, or the establishments employed on them reduced and transferred to the relief works. Also temporary establishments may be engaged. In these respects the local Governments should use a full discretion.

31. All relief works on which public money is expended should, if possible, be of permanent public utility. The application of subscriptions or Government grants to works which will improve the property of individual landholders, without giving any return to the State, is to be avoided.

Description of works to be taken up.

32. In selecting works for execution, care should be taken that their character is suitable to the available means of supervision. Minor district works of a simple description may properly be carried on under district committees. Larger operations should not be attempted if it can be avoided, except with the aid of the Public Works Department

Arrangements for Control of Works C will be abrogated.

The rule will now be that all relief works will be in the first instance sanctioned in the Famine Department; the Secretary in that department taking the advice of the Chief Engineer and his establishment when necessary.

When the works are sanctioned then the professional control and all questions of account will be transferred to the Department of Public Works. Commissioners may still write to the Famine Department regarding proposed new works, or extension, additions, or alterations in works already sanctioned; also regarding food-supply (not distributed to the laborers) and questions of general policy and the general necessity for employment. On the other hand, on all questions regarding the carrying on the current works, the particular employment and the payment of the laborers, and the distribution of food to the laborers, the Magistrate will correspond with the Department of Public Works; the works will be carried on by the Department of Public Works and local officers under the rules applicable to district works, and will, for all Department of Public Works purposes, be treated as district works.

D, and the table attached to it, will be part of the special instructions and tables which we have promised to prepare. I think Mr. Geddes might do this work so far as they are to be rendered to Famine Department. Department Public Works will do the rest.

Proposition statement as in D will now have to come to Famine Department.

Controller note E, as modified by me, would be included in their orders.

Arrangements must be made for keeping the Famine Department informed of all important details of arrangement in each of the Public Works Department, and everything of the kind which requires special order of the Lieutenant-Governor, or communications with Government of India, should be sent up through Mr. Bernard, and *vice versâ;* orders affecting Department of Public Works Accounts will be sent through Department of Public Works.

No. 626.

Resolution by the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the Public Works Department,—Establishments,—under date the 2nd February 1869.

In continuation of the resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor in the Revenue Department, dated 1st instant, it seems desirable, in order to facilitate the operations of the Public Works Department in connexion with relief measures, that the general views of Government on the subject should be made known, and the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to issue the following instructions for the guidance of officers concerned:—

The Commissioner of the division is to be regarded as the local head of all relief measures and works. He must be cognizant of all matters connected with relief, and, unless in instances specially excepted, all communications from officers of the department, as well as civil officers, on the subject of relief, should be submitted through him.

In making application for relief works it will be sufficient to state—

1st.—The civil district in which the work lies.

2nd.—Its nature, whether a new work or repair, whether a road, tank, or building, whether earth-work, brick-work, or metalling, &c.

Circular No. 81.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAGISTRATES AND COLLECTORS.

Calcutta, the 19th November 1873

SIR,

IN continuation of Circular No. 70 of the Statistical Department of this Government, dated Calcutta, the 13th October 1873, I am directed to request that you will, in addition to the particulars therein called for, furnish the best information procurable as to the stocks of rice held (1) by zemindars and mahajans, (2) by individual ryots and others, the amount required for home consumption, and that available for export to other districts.

2. Any particulars as to the habits of the people in this respect, and the extent to which the several classes of the people are accustomed to store grain either for sale or for their own use, would prove extremely valuable in the present crisis.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor does not wish the district officers to make such detailed inquiries as might be deemed inquisitorial and tend to alarm the people. All he wishes is that the best information procurable on this important subject should be made available and forwarded with the monthly report alluded to in paragraph 4 of Circular No. 70 of the 13th October 1873.

4. Magistrates of distressed districts will see from paragraph 23, heading A, of Circular No. 80, dated the 14th, that they are asked to notice in their weekly narrative any new facts that may come to light during the week regarding stocks. The monthly special report, it will be remembered, is due from *all* districts, while the weekly narrative is to come from the distressed districts only.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

D E J

No. 3566.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE COLLECTOR OF

Calcutta, the 22nd November 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3476, dated 17th November, asking for a careful estimate of the rubbee crops with your special report for the first week of December, I am directed to convey the following remarks.

2. In looking into this subject the Lieutenant-Governor has been struck to find that the reports furnished by the Behar Collector in the early part of November 1865, regarding the prospects of the ensuing rubbee, were quite as desponding as in the present year. All declared that if rain did not come very soon there would be little rubbee; one Collector said there would be absolutely no rubbee. It was generally stated that little had been sown, and what little seed was trusted to the ground had been eaten up by grubs No rains seem in fact to have fallen for two months after these reports were made; yet rain having fallen in January and February, all the subsequent reports show that there was in most places a good rubbee crop, except where it was injured by hail and excessive rains.

The fact is that the rubbee crops in their early stages possess a wonderful vitality, and if they germinate in the least, they can well wait for rain at Christmas or later.

3. Since then very much of the prospects of Behar depend in the rubbee; the Lieutenant-Governor much trusts that all Collectors in making their reports in the beginning of December will be very careful to distinguish between rubbee which is actually unsown or has positively failed, and that which is still alive and may yet be saved by cold weather rains. Their statements should be based on this distinction.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

W. E. B.

No. 3806.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, *dated 5th December* / *issued December* 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3684, dated the 28th November, 1873, I am directed to forward herewith two copies of the fourth Special Narrative (with Appendices and Enclosures enumerated below) of the drought in Behar, and parts of Bengal from 29th November to 5th December, 1873, inclusive.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES.

A.—Note on the movement of food-grains.

B.—Letter from the Government of India, No. 3402, dated the 29th November, 1873, in reply to Bengal letter urging importation (Appendix C of last Narrative); and reply of the Government of Bengal, No. 46PS, dated the 2nd December, 1873, submitting a preliminary estimate of the amount of grain that should be stored in Bengal before the 31st January, 1874.

C.—Statement showing the amount of Government rice despatched from Calcutta into the interior.

D.—Statement showing places chosen for storage of grain on the Northern Bengal Railway, and other works in the Rajshahye Division.

E.—Bengal (Public Works Department) Circular, laying down procedure and forms of account for relief works.

ENCLOSURES.

1.—Rainfall and Crop Return for Bengal for the week ending 29th November, 1873.
2.—Prices-current Return for Bengal for ditto ditto.
3.—First Fortnightly Report for the District of Bhaugulpore
4.—Correspondence regarding the promotion of emigration from the distressed districts.

No. 3805.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

IN THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, dated 5th December / issued December 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3683, dated the 28th November 1873, I am directed to forward herewith two copies of the fourth Special Narrative (with appendices and enclosures enumerated below) of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal from 29th November to 5th December 1873 inclusive.

2. Copies have been despatched by this day's mail to His Grace the Secretary of State for India.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES.

A.—Note on the Movement of Food Grains.

B.—Letter from the Government of India, No. 3402, dated the 29th November 1873, in reply to Bengal letter urging importation (Appendix C of last Narrative); and reply of the Government of Bengal, No. 46P.S., dated the 2nd December 1873, submitting a preliminary estimate of the amount of grain that should be stored in Bengal before the 31st January 1874.

C.—Statement shewing the amount of Government rice despatched from Calcutta into the interior.

D.—Statement shewing places chosen for storage of grain on the Northern Bengal Railway, and other works in the Rajshahye Division.

E.—Bengal (Public Works Department) Circular, laying down procedure and forms of account for relief works.

ENCLOSURES.

1.—Rainfall and crop return for Bengal for the week ending the 29th November 1873.

2.—Prices-current return for Bengal for the week ending the 29th November 1873.

3.—First fortnightly report of the district of Bhaugulpore.

4.—Correspondence regarding the promotion of emigration from the distressed districts.

Fourth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 from 29th November to 5th December, 1873.

(1.) The prospects of the late rice crop have not perceptibly changed since the date of last Narrative. In the districts previously described as distressed districts there is no improvement; in other districts where the harvest has commenced the actual outturn has been found to be rather better than was anticipated. This is the case in the Burdwan Division. So in Dacca, Furreedpore, Pubna and Tipperah, the outturn is somewhat better than the local officers estimated, though not perhaps better than the forecast given in the Narrative for the week ending November 21st, Appendix B. The prospect of the spring crop is perhaps, on the whole, rather better this week. In the Behar divisions the area sown down is not so much less than usual as was at one time stated; sowing is said to be still going on in places; the crop has, contrary to expectation, germinated fairly well for the most part; what is above ground is looking healthy; and though the cloudy weather has brought insects, which are reported to be doing damage, with rain a fair outturn may be looked for. In Bengal no great improvement in cold weather crops can be reported. It is perhaps satisfactory that the prospect is not worse than it was a week ago. But in Bengal, as has been before remarked, the spring crop is not a very important item in the food-supply of the people. The weekly returns of rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops up to November 29th are herewith enclosed (Enclosure 1).

(2.) Cloud has been the chief characteristic of the weather since last Narrative. On one or two days very slight showers fell, but so slight as to be inappreciable. The Meteorological Reporter says: "The weather remains cloudy and promises rain, but as yet none has fallen in Calcutta beyond 0·13 inch on the 28th and 29th November. The barometer fluctuates but little, and the mean pressure is about the average of this time of year. The winds remain light and easterly below, while sheets of cloud drift up from the south-west. There is still no sign of the land wind from the north-west, the regular wind of the season." Since this was written there has, however, come on a strong and cold north wind. Cloud without rain is by no means conducive to the advantage of the agriculturist at this season. It breeds insects and blight in both the late rice and spring crops. It will be observed from the weather and rainfall returns enclosed herewith that the very slight rain referred to by the Meteorological Reporter was confined to a few places, and was always so small as to have no appreciable effect.

(3.) Although the new rice is now beginning to come into market, prices have not fallen, either greatly or generally, since last week. They cannot now be said to be lower than they were at the same time in 1865. In the distressed districts they are, if anything, rather higher; in other districts they are, on the whole, neither higher nor lower. The Calcutta market is undoubtedly easier than it was last week; the commonest sort of rice which was quoted last week at Rs 3-6 to Rs. 3-9 being now obtainable at Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8; but this may perhaps be due in some degree to the withdrawal of Government from the market. The weekly return of prices-current of food-grains is enclosed herewith (Enclosure 2). A note on the movement of food-grains during the week is submitted in Appendix A.

(4.) In paragraph 4 of the last Narrative reference was made to a correspondence with the Government of India, in which the Lieutenant-Governor had urged the necessity of pressing forward at once the importation of food. In reply the Government of India, while considering the supply of food

provided to be sufficient for the moment, requested that an estimate of the probable quantity of grain required for local purposes, as duly authorized, might be submitted, and accordingly, in letter No. 46PS, dated December 2nd, the Lieutenant-Governor has laid before the Government of India a statement of the grain that has been bought or ordered; of the amount he still hopes to secure before the end of January; and of the amount he would ask the Government of India to procure from beyond the sea so as to be delivered before the same date. This preliminary statement of our immediate requirements shows that in Sir George Campbell's opinion we ought to have 18,75,000 maunds* of Government grain in Bengal before the end of January next; that with that amount we may hope to feed for the first three months the people likely to come on our relief works or into our relief houses; that before the end of January, and before the proposed supply shall have been exhausted, we shall be able to tell what is the promise of the spring crops, and how far the chances are increased or diminished that we shall have to combat a severe famine over a large area. Copies of this correspondence are annexed in Appendix B.

* About 70,000 tons

Meanwhile, since the despatch of last Narrative, Sir George Campbell has bought no more grain in Calcutta in addition to the 6,00,000 maunds therein stated to have been bought or ordered. As then explained, the state of the Calcutta market is so delicate, that any Government operations thereon paralyse private trade. Barely 40,000† maunds more have been ordered by local officers. The Lieutenant-Governor is hoping to arrange for the purchase of some 4,00,000 maunds additional. He would especially like to obtain some of the cheaper grains, (especially jowaree,) which have just come into the market from the North-Western Provinces. But the arrangement is not yet concluded; there is some doubt about the procedure through which this Government is, according to the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy, bound to operate in making purchases in the North-Western Provinces, and the officer nominated by that Government has not felt able to execute the orders of the officers of this Government in the form in which they were put.

† 20,000 maunds are under despatch from Delhi to the Bhangulpore division, and the rest is being bought from Eastern Bengal by the Commissioner of Rajshahye.

The Government grain which has reached Calcutta up to date has been pushed forward to railway and river-side stations in the distressed districts. Up to the evening of Thursday (the 4th December) 38,186 maunds of Burmah rice, and 84,134 maunds of Indian rice have been despatched to the interior, as shown in Appendix C. The S. S. *Dacca*, with 9,000 bags of rice from Burmah, is now in the river. About 84,000 maunds of the Indian rice bought in Calcutta is either under delivery or else is stored in Calcutta warehouses as a reserve for despatch to districts whence emergent indents may be forthcoming. The first instalments of the Orissa rice bought by the Government of Bengal have arrived: three native sloops, carrying about 5,000 maunds of Balasore grain, have come into the Hooghly, and four more sloops have left Orissa. The Chittagong rice bought by the Commissioner of Patna has come into Calcutta, and is being despatched up the East Indian Railway. The first despatch of barley and other grains bought by the Commissioner of Patna from the North-Western Provinces has arrived at railway stations in Behar. Some of the grain ordered by the Court of Wards for its works has already reached Durbangah, while much more is on its way to Durbangah and Hutwa, large estates in the districts of Tirhoot and Sarun.

(5.) The work of transporting the grain into the interior from the railway and river-side stations has already begun, and the Lieutenant-Governor has much pressed on his officers that this should be carried out without delay. Places for storage have been selected, and warehouses are being built on the Soane Canal works, at two places on the Gunduck Embankment, and in most of the distressed

districts of the Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye divisions. Though the sites for storehouses (golahs) have for the most part been selected, still no new storehouses are actually yet finished,* but several have been rented. Some stores will be filled before others, and so there would be no object in submitting to the Government of India a bare list of places which have been selected for storehouses until proceedings have got a little further.

* The great domed granary built at Patna after the famine of the last century, occasional storehouses at P. W. stations, at excise distilleries, at studs, at the *ganja* storehouses in Rajshahye, and other Government establishments are being used wherever they exist; and at places like the Patna river-side station storage room has been rented, but for the most part temporary storage houses have to be built, and are being built.

For the Patna Division the Commissioner has as yet only indicated the works on which he would establish store-houses. He has indicated also the routes by which grain is to be taken to each tract, and he has actually despatched grain by boats and by carts to three different tracts where he expects distress to occur soonest. The Commissioner of Patna (Mr. Bayley) is at the time of writing travelling from district to district of North Behar, and is arranging the storage places and means of transport with the district officers. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has gone further, and has submitted maps showing for each district the relief works to be undertaken in the first instance, those to be held in reserve, the sites for storehouses and probable relief centres in each district; and a subsequent report has explained that to begin with grain will be despatched to and stored in the more important store-houses near which relief works are likely to be soonest wanted. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore has already sent several thousand maunds of grain across the Ganges from the railway, and has despatched the whole on carts to places in the north of Bhaugulpore and Purneah. He has also despatched smaller quantities on carts from the Luckiserai station to places in the poorer tracts to the south-west of Monghyr.

From the Rajshahye Division we have very complete reports regarding the sites chosen for storage of grain on the Northern Bengal Railway works, on feeder roads, and on the North Ganges emigration roads. In Appendix D is given a list of these storage places, with the amounts to be stored at each and the routes selected for reaching the stores. The Commissioner (Mr. Molony) reports that if distress deepens, the number of store-houses may have to be increased, and the number of maunds to be stored must be larger; he notes also that he will have to select some storage places in Rungpore; but for the present the Relief Commissioner and the district officers have in the Rajshahye Division to work up to the lines laid down by Mr. Molony and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor.

(6.) In connection with the Burmah rice a serious practical difficulty has arisen from the fact that all Burmah rice is packed in bags containing over two hundredweight. The coolies who unload the steamers and load the railway trucks, as well as the coolies at Goalundo and Kooshtea, have found great difficulty in loading and unloading these bags. The local officers have represented that transhipment and transport of these heavy bags into small carts and small boats in the interior will be very difficult. When the first consignment of large bags came, the Lieutenant-Governor represented that they could not be carried on pack bullocks. As it appears that smaller bags cannot be had in Burmah, the Rangoon authorities have been asked, through the Government of India, to pack only two maunds in each bag, however big. Meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor is having one maund bags made at all the jail factories for the purpose of packing any rice that may have to be re-bagged.

Over 5,000 bags (about 14,000 maunds) of Burmah rice which came by the S. S. *Arabia* held what is called "cargo rice," that is, about one grain out of every five has the husk on it, while the remaining four are almost fully husked. As the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to send rice into the interior as quickly as possible, the consignment has been despatched to the works in Behar. Meanwhile a few bags have been kept, and experiment is being made as to the best way of preparing the rice for consumption. It will probably be found that coolies and their families will be able to prepare the cargo rice for food easily enough.

(7.) At paragraph 6 of the second Narrative and at paragraph 6 of the third Narrative mention was made of the fortnightly reports which officers of distressed districts are to submit to Government; and in Appendix D to the second Narrative were given the heads on which such reports were to touch. The report from six districts (bringing the history of affairs down to the 1st December) have been received; one of the reports (an excellent one from Bhangulpore) has been printed* in time to go with the present Narrative, and is sent as a specimen. This report shows very fully what is being done in this and other districts; copies of other similar reports will be submitted with next week's Narrative. Meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to acknowledge that the local officers are actively and intelligently giving effect to the orders of Government. The district reports just received show that the Civil Officers are most carefully watching the condition of the people; that they are preparing, or have prepared, relief works in the worst tracts; that they have prepared some store-houses for Government grain, and are preparing work; and that they are forwarding to the interior all the Government grain which has yet reached them without any hitch or hindrance so far.

* Enclosure 3.

(8.) The letter from the British Indian Association, to which reference was made in paragraph 10 of the last Narrative, contained a statement that the Government would have upon its hands the task of feeding 60 millions of people. At the request of the Government of India, the Association has been asked to give the materials on which its statement is based.

The offer of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah to contribute Rs. 5 a head towards the expenses of conveying emigrants to that province has been considered by the Lieutenant-Governor. It is found that it would cost much more than Rs. 5 to convey each emigrant from the distressed districts only as far as Calcutta, and the Government of India have been informed that in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor the proposal made by the Chief Commissioner is wholly inadequate. It has been proposed to put on a Government vessel to ply between Calcutta and Rangoon, taking down emigrants, if they should offer, and returning with rice. Letter No. 3649, dated 26th November, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, herewith enclosed, refers to this subject.

(9.) Of the Soane Canal Works, we learn that the establishment for the new branches have now nearly all joined, the land is being taken up, and the store-houses for grain have been commenced. Upwards of 8,300 men are at work on the head-works at Dehree, and 5,400 on the Arrah Canal. From the western main canal 463 villages, aggregating 261 square miles, have received water; it is estimated that the area actually irrigated is 104,000 acres. It was before reported that water was let into the eastern main canal on the 15th November. Entering in a volume of 300 cubic feet a second, it speedily filled the eight miles of canal already excavated, and passing from the canal into an old water-course, twelve miles in length, which has served as an excellent distributary, it eventually flows off into the Poonpoon river. It was admitted into the canal too late to be of much use for irrigation purposes at the upper end, but there is some prospect of the water thrown into the Poonpoon coming in useful for the cold weather crops.

Of the Gunduck Embankment scheme, it is reported that most of the officers detailed for the work have been sent up to commence operations.

Of the Kana Nuddee in the Hooghly district, we learn that three-fourths of the work has already been completed. Some 1,395 men have been daily employed on this work during the last fortnight, and it is expected that water will pass through the cutting on the 10th instant. The opening of this channel will, the Collector anticipates, save about 100,000 acres of root and spring crops.

Of the Northern Bengal Railway Major Lindsay reports, that his stores are on the way up by rail to Rajmehal, and that he is organising a bullock train

for their conveyance into the interior. He says that the earthwork on this line will probably give employment to 100,000 people, if that number were to come on the works.

(10.) The reports which have reached Government regarding the actual commencement of relief works, and regarding the number of laborers on these works, are not complete; but neither on the canal works, nor on the local works in the south of the Patna Division, has there been as yet any large influx of laborers belonging to agricultural classes. The Commissioner, who was on tour in North Behar, wrote, under date the 1st December, that the works in Tirhoot were attracting none but the usual laboring classes. It has been stated in demi-official letters that distress is already apparent in Chumparun and Sarun; but until particulars are received, the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to say what form the distress has taken. The Manager of the Hutwa estate has to-day brought word that 15,000 people (men, women and children) are employed on the district and local works in Sarun. About one-third of these are employed on the Hutwa estate at rates of wages averaging 1¼ anna per diem per head; but a considerable proportion are people who would be employed on district works at this season in ordinary years. From all sides it is reported that harvesting of what rice there may be, as well as rubbee sowings, is going on, and that in consequence labor does not largely come to the works. From the Bhaugulpore Division official accounts have not yet been received of the number of persons on works in the several districts; but the Bhaugulpore fortnightly report speaks of 1,000 work-people being employed on one set of roads in the north of the district; and a demi-official letter speaks of about 7,000 people being on the road works in Monghyr, south of the Ganges alone. In the Rajshahye Division work-people are said to be coming to roads in the Dinagepore district, in the north of Rajshahye and in Maldah, and it is stated that the ryots of the high-land known as the Burrind in Rajshahye are coming on the works; but as yet the information on this point is imperfect.

(11.) During the week under report the Lieutenant-Governor has issued, in the Public Works Department, full instructions for the guidance of officers engaged in relief works. Copy of that circular is appended. (See Appendix E.)

(12.) It has been recorded in a former Narrative that the Government had entered into contracts for the supply of rice from Orissa, the price agreed upon being for delivery in Calcutta. The British India Steam Navigation Company having largely raised their rates of freight, the contractors have represented that they will have difficulty in fulfilling their engagements, and have suggested that Government should put a steamer on the line to take freight at the old rates. The Lieutenant-Governor has represented the matter to the Company's Agents in Calcutta, and, if necessary, he will address the Government of India more specifically upon the subject.

(13.) The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore asked for a further immediate provision of 1,50,000 maunds of grain in addition to the 1,50,000 maunds already allowed to him; the Lieutenant-Governor declined for the present to grant a further credit until he has received more precise information regarding the distribution of the rice already arranged for. The same Commissioner has been recommended to lay out some portion of the money allotted to him in the purchase of grain in the Sonthal Pergunnahs or other places whence export of that grain is said to be now going on.

The division of Burdwan has not been fully classed as a distressed tract. At the request of the Commissioner sanction has now been given to the commencement of relief works in the districts of Burdwan, Beerbhoom, and Bancoorah. In Midnapore, however, the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it unnecessary to sanction at present the grants applied for, there being a good crop in the greater part of that district. The Kana Nuddee excavation in Hooghly was sanctioned more for the sake of its immediate use for irrigation purposes than as a relief work.

(14.) The planters of Northern Behar are coming forward in numbers for advances for purchase of grain under paragraph 4, clause (a) of Circular No. 80. In the Chumparun district it is understood that a committee has been formed by the planters and the Superintendent of the Rajah of Bettiah's estate; and, subject to the sanction of principals, a large sum has been subscribed for the purpose of importing grain and selling it at cost price.

(15.) From the Rajshahye Division it is reported that Baboo Luchmiput Sing, Bahadoor, a wealthy Marwari banker and landholder, has suspended his rents, made arrangements for storing grain, and otherwise provided against the approaching scarcity. The Lieutenant-Governor has published the account of this gentleman's liberal proceedings in the *Gazette*, with the expression of his strong approval.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,

Additional Under-Secretary.

CALCUTTA,
The 5th December 1873.

Appendix A to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 *in Bengal, from* 29*th November to* 5*th December* 1873.

APPENDIX A.

Note on the Movement of Food-Grains.

1. THE last note recorded the traffic up and down past the Sahebgunge registering station on the Ganges up to the 25th of November. We have now returns down to the 2nd December. During this week some 21,500 maunds wheat and grain passed downwards, almost all consigned to Calcutta, and chiefly despatched from places in the Bhaugulpore division This makes a total from 1st November of 100,000 maunds wheat and grain despatched to Calcutta by this route. Some small consignments of rice—some 6,000 maunds in all—have passed up, as well as 6,000 maunds pulses This makes a total of 32,000 maunds rice and 51,000 maunds of pulses proceeding upwards since 1st November.

2. The returns for the week ending November 29th of food-grains passing Goalundo on the Ganges, and at Kooshtea on the Gorai, show that the downward traffic in wheat and gram past Kooshtea is as brisk as ever, 28,000 maunds having gone down during the week. During the same period 20,000 maunds of rice were registered passing up the Ganges at Goalundo. Over 7,000 maunds of food-grains passed down to Calcutta by the Eastern Bengal Railway during the week.

3. By the eastern canals some 73,000 maunds of food-grains reached Calcutta between the 27th November and the 3rd December. This traffic is at present confined almost entirely to rice. The total reaching Calcutta by this route since 1st October amounts now to 638,000 maunds.

4. From Howrah there has been despatched since last report, up to the evening of December 3rd, 78,000 maunds; from Chandernagore, during the same period, only 4,000 maunds has been sent off. The total despatch from Howrah and Chandernagore by rail since October 8th now amounts to 896,000 maunds, consigned, 163,000 maunds to Bhaugulpore and stations on the loop line, 151,000 to Patna, 261,000 to Arrah, 73,000 to Buxar, 51,000 to Barh, 40,000 to Raneegunge, 38,000 to Benares, and 20,000 to Mirzapore, and the rest in small amounts to various stations. It is to be noted that these figures include Government consignments. (See Appendix C)

5. From 27th November to 3rd December 61,000 maunds rice has left the port of Calcutta, making, since 1st November, a total of some 275,000 maunds. Of wheat there has been very small export, but 26 000 maunds pulses and gram has left since the 27th November. The imports of rice during the same period have been—

					Maunds
From Moulmein	..	..	..	..	3,560
„ Orissa ports	..	..	..	..	19,297
„ Chittagong	..	..	..	..	18,500
„ Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	29
			Total	..	41,386

This import from Chittagong is all on Government account.

6. By telegraph we learn that from the 27th November to 2nd December 83,000 maunds of rice were exported from Chittagong to ports other than Bengal ports. The discontinuance of this export trade from Chittagong noted in last report was only temporary.

7. During the first fortnight of November 98,000 maunds of food-grains passed on the East Indian Railway from stations above Mirzapore to Mirzapore and stations below down to Luckiserai and Rajmehal. Of this 48,000 maunds were consigned to stations in the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions. The remaining 50,000 maunds went to stations in the Benares division of the North-Western Provinces. During the third week of November this trade became brisker, and 120 000 maunds of grain from Northern India were delivered at stations between Mirzapore and Rajmehal; of this quantity one-third was received in the Benares division of the North-Western Provinces, and two-thirds in the two divisions of Behar.

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,
Additional Under-Secretary.

The 5th December 1873.

Appendix B to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 *in Bengal, from* 29*th November to* 5*th December* 1873.

No. 3402, dated Fort William, the 29th November 1873

From—R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq, Secy. to the Govt. of India, Financial Department,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I AM directed by the Honorable the President in Council to acknowledge receipt of your No. 28PS of the 22nd instant, regarding the reasons for anticipating a block or accumulation of grain for the distressed districts awaiting transport.

2. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may rest assured that the importance of avoiding such block or accumulation is fully recognised by the Government of India.

3. Information has been received to the effect that the grain purchased by the Government of India, in ports beyond the limits of Bengal is being shipped with all practicable expedition. The Government of Bengal has been authorized to expedite, in such manner as it may deem best, the despatch of such supplies up-country as soon as they shall arrive in Calcutta; reporting thereafter as soon as possible the plan of local distribution for the information of the Government of India. A preliminary report from the local Government on this subject has been already received and will be separately acknowledged.

4. The supply thus provided is as much as the Government of India deems necessary to be provided at this moment for the principal Public Works in the distressed districts, according to present estimates, and subject to such modification of estimates as the course of events may induce us to make.

5. If the Government of Bengal should find difficulty in obtaining within its own provinces supplies sufficient for the local works, the Government of India would be prepared to assist in obtaining additional supplies from other places. But from the Special Narrative for the week ending on the 28th November, it would appear that the Lieutenant-Governor has arranged for the purchase of 600,000 maunds in all, equal to 22,040 tons; of which about 120,000 maunds are to come from the North-Western Provinces, and the rest from Bengal and Orissa. It would appear that His Honor does not contemplate further purchases at present. And it may apparently be hoped that out of the above total of 600,000 maunds, about two-thirds will reach the central station of the distressed districts before the begining of January.

6. The Government of India would however desire to receive an estimate of the probable quantity of grain required for the local purposes as duly authorized, and of the amounts to be obtained from Bengal and from other provinces respectively. Such estimate would, in the first instance, be framed upon the best data now available, and would be subject to modification hereafter, as events may develop themselves.

7. It is satisfactory to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor has been able to effect the purchases through firms of good standing, which procedure is in the opinion of the Government of India preferable to the employment of an individual agent, which latter course would be open to objection.

8. I am to acknowledge with thanks the useful suggestions conveyed in the 6th paragraph of the letter under acknowledgment regarding freight between the Burmese ports and Calcutta. The matter has received and is receiving the attention of the Government of India, in communication with the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

9. So far as concerns the transport by rail to the stations in the distressed districts, the Government of India trusts that there will be no difficulty. The apprehensions of the Government of India are directed towards the prospect of despatching the grain from the railway stations into the interior of the country. This important subject will doubtless engage the constant attention of the local Government.

W. J. McN.

No. 46PS, dated Calcutta, the 2nd December 1873.

From—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department.

WITH reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of your letter No. 3402, dated 29th November 1873, I am directed to submit a preliminary estimate of the Government grain which the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have available for the distressed districts before the end of January next. Sir George Campbell considers the materials for forming such an estimate of our probable requirements are very uncertain and insufficient. Still, as he understands that the Government of India desires the local Government to submit such an estimate, he directs me to report as follows.

2. As a preliminary arrangement the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have in the distressed districts or in depôt ready for them before the end of January 1874, sufficient Government grain to supply five per cent. of the inhabitants of those districts for a period of three months. These districts contain about 25 millions of people; one-twentieth of this population (at the rate of two-thirds of a seer per head per day) would consume 1,875,000 maunds of grain in the three months :—

	Maunds.	Maunds.
The Government of India have already ordered from beyond sea, deliverable in January 10,000 tons, or say ...		270,000
The Government of Bengal hopes to have by the end of January :—		
From Calcutta and the Eastern Districts	400,000	
„ Orissa	200,000	
„ the North-West Provinces	350,000	
		950,000
Balance to be provided		655,000
Total ...		1875,000

The Lieutenant-Governor would recommend that this event be met by the Government of India's providing this balance by ordering a further immediate despatch of 25,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea. All this further consignment should be delivered in Calcutta, as early as possible, and no part of it later than the end of January, and the Lieutenant-Governor would arrange for its despatch to the interior as promptly as possible.

3. If all this quantity of grain could be provided, then we should probably be in a condition to prevent starvation, and to alleviate keen distress wherever it might occur up to the end of April 1874, on the supposition that there will be only very severe scarcity and very high prices. By the end of January, and at any rate long before the 1,875,000 maunds were consumed, we should know how the spring crops were turning out, and should have better means of judging how far the scarcity was likely to deepen into a severe famine; and the Government of India should be able to order up from Burmah as much as might be thought necessary of the abundant new crop which the Burmese are said to be expecting.

4. It is hardly too much to say that, if we have a bad famine approaching to the Orissa famine in severity, over very large tracts, we shall after January want more grain that the Government of India could give, or than it would be possible for the local officers to distribute properly throughout the distressed districts. For the present, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor would not offer any estimate of the Government grain required in Bengal before the 31st January 1874.

5. With reference to paragraph 4 of your letter No. 3402, dated 29th November, I am to explain that the preliminary estimate now submitted, includes all requirements for imperial and local relief works as well as for relief-houses.

W. J. McN.

Appendix b to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 *in Bengal, from* 29*th November to* 5*th December* 1873.

APPENDIX C.

Statement shewing the amount of Government Rice despatched from Calcutta to each station in each division up to 1th December 1873.

DIVISION.	Station to which sent.	QUANTITY IN BAZAR MAUNDS.			REMARKS.
		Burmah	Bengal.	Total.	
		Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
PATNA	Patna Ghat	17,971	10,708	28,679	
BHAUGULPORE ..	Bhaugulpore	.....	27,149	27,149	
	Carragola	.....	6,090	6,090	
	Rajmehal	... .	5,208	5,208(a)	(a). Sent to care of Major Lindsay, R.E.
	Arrah	3,284	6,617	9,901	
	Mogulserai	.. ..	6,619	6,619	
	Luckhiserai ...	..	5,128	5,128	
	Monghyr	....	2,691	2,691	
	Sahebgunge	.....	3,924	3,924	Total Bhaugulpore Division, 66,710 mds.
RAJSHAHYE ...	Kooshteah	10,741	10,000	20,741	
	Goalundo	6,190	... ..	6,190	Total Rajshahye Division, 26,931 maunds.
	Grand Total ...	38,186	84,134	122,820	

N B—This statement does not include grain bought by Commissioners and delivered to them in their divisions.

S. TOYNBEE,
On Special Duty.

The 4th December 1873.

Appendix 2 *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 29*th November to* 5*th December* 1873.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

APPENDIX D TO THE FOURTH SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF DROUGHT IN BENGAL FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 5TH DECEMBER 1873.

Statement of Storage Places for Government Grain selected by the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division in concert with the Relief Commissioner and with Major Lindsay, Superintending Engineer of the Northern Bengal Railway

STORAGE PLACES ON THE NORTHERN BENGAL RAILWAY WORKS

MAJOR LINDSAY calculates that the amount of rice it is now proposed to store will suffice for the support of 28,000 men for three months. He adds that if "as many men as we could possibly employ come to work, the earth-work on the railway would employ 100,000 men for three months."

Store Depôt.	Amount of maunds.	Line of transport.
Dhaparee on the Ganges ...	5,000 ..	Steamer from Kooshtea to Dhaparee.
Nattore (Rajshahye district) ..	5,000 ...	Ditto ditto and thence by cart to Nattore.
Sultanpore (*alias* Nowgong) ...	10,000 ..	Small steamer and boats up the Oorasagor, and Jaboona Rivers.
Joypore	5,000 ...	Same route as the foregoing and by cart from Sultanpore.
Hillee (*alias* Koomarpore) ...	5,000 ..	Ditto ditto
Parbuttipore	5,000 ...	Rail to Rajmehal and by cart thence to Parbuttipore.
Total ...	35,000	

STORAGE PLACES ON LOCAL WORKS AND FEEDER ROADS AND AT CENTRAL DEPÔTS WHENCE THE MINOR STORES CAN BE REPLENISHED

Name of Storage place	Number of maunds to be stored	Line of transport.
Neetpore	10,000	By big boats of 500 maunds up the Mahanuddy from Godagaree to which the steamer will bring from Kooshtea.
Raigunge	10,000	Ditto ditto up to Neetpore, and thence by smaller boats.
Khoodaha	5,000	Ditto ditto
Nowbazar	5,000	
Tumbolee	5,000	By boats up to old Maldah on the Mahanuddee, and thence by carts and pack-bullocks.
Putnitola	10,000	By small steamer and boats up the Oorasagor Atrai and Jaboona
Gazole (Maldah District) ..	10,000	By boats up the Mahanuddee, and thence by carts and pack-bullocks.
Khurbaha	5,000	
Godagaree (mouth of Mahanuddee as a central depôt)	50,000	By steamer and flats plying between Kooshtea and Godagaree.
Total ..	110,000	

N.B.—For Rungpore and Bograh places of storage have yet to be selected; and it is possible that as the season advances more places of storage will have to be established further inland from the Ganges.

CALCUTTA,
The 5th December 1873.

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,
Additional Under-Secretary.

Appendix E. to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 *in Bengal, from* 29*th November to* 5*th December* 1873.

No. 5716.

FROM COLONEL J. E. T. NICOLLS, R. E.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal
in the Public Works Department,

TO ALL COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.
Accounts.

Fort William, the 3rd December 1873.

SIR,

With reference to the orders of Government regarding the preparation of District Road Fund Accounts, in which it is prescribed that a Quarterly Abstract of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Fund shall be prepared and submitted to the Controller of Public Works Accounts, Bengal, I am directed to request that, for the present and till further orders, the Abstract of Disbursements only may be submitted monthly instead of quarterly, as it is of great importance at the present time that Government should be fully and early acquainted with the progress of the outlay in each District. A copy of the revised form is herewith forwarded for guidance, and it will be observed that a further detail of the balance has been provided for, so as to admit of check between the Civil and the Public Works Accounts. Care must be taken that the amount of cash in Treasury accords with the amount shown by the Treasury Pass Book, *vide* Accountant-General's Circular No. 288 of 20th August 1873, a copy of which was circulated with this Office No. 5025 of the 18th October 1873.

2. The first monthly abstract should be submitted for the month of October last, and it is expected that these abstracts shall reach the Controller's Office at latest by the 20th of the month following that to which the abstracts relate; and I am to request that punctuality in this respect may be specially enjoined on all Officers.

3. The new form of monthly abstract will be shortly available for supply to District Officers on application to the Superintendent of Stationery, but till these are procured the form should be submitted in manuscript.

4. The usual quarterly statement will be submitted separately.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient Servant,

J. E. T. NICOLLS, *Colonel, R. E.,*

Secretary to the Government of Bengal
in the Public Works Department.

No. 5717.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Accountant-General, Bengal, for information, with a request that he will furnish the Controller, Public Works Accounts, with a statement of the monthly balance in Treasury at credit of each Road Fund at as early a date as possible after the close of each month, and that he will be so good as to state at once, by what date in each month he will be able to furnish this information.

No. 5717A.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Controller of Public Works Accounts, Bengal, for guidance.

No. 5717B.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department, for information.

No. 5717C.

Extract, paragraph 3, from the above, accompanied by the Form therein referred to, forwarded to the Superintendent of Stationery, with a request that he will print a sufficient quantity thereof for issue to the District Officers on application.

No. 5717D.

Copy of above letter and of its enclosure forwarded to the Commissioner of Assam in the Public Works Department for information. *Vide* endorsement No. 5718A. of 3rd current.

Memorandum shewing Expenditure on Relief Works.

	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Expended on Original Works—		
Viz. on Relief Works		
on Other Works		
Total as within ...		
Expended on Repairs—		
Viz. on Relief Works		
on Other Works		
Total as within ...		
Expended on Establishment—		
Viz. on Establishment specially employed for Relief Works ...		
on other Establishment		
Total as within		

District Road Fund.

DISTRICT.

Abstract of Expenditure for the Month of 187 -7 .

No. .

Submitted to the Controller of Public Works Accounts, Bengal, as per Bengal Government's No. of Septem-ber 187 .

Statement of Total Receipts, Outlay and Balance of the Month.

PARTICULARS.			Amount.	Total.
			Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Balance as per last Monthly Statement				
Total receipts of Month				
Total available ...			.....	
Total expenditure of the Month as within				
BALANCE—	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		
Cash in Treasury as per Pass Book*				
Less amount of cheques charged in accounts, but not yet paid from Treasury				
Net balance in Treasury				
Cash in hands of Disbursers				
Advances at credit of Public Works Department				
Other advances				
Less balance at credit of Deposits				
Net balance at close of Quarter				
Total as above ...			.....	

* The amount shewn here must be in accord with that shown in the Pass Book, *vide* Accountant-General's Circular No. 288 of

DISTRICT _____

Abstract of Expenditure for the Month of 187 * -7 .

Expenditure.	By Public Works Officers.			By Other Agency.			Total Expenditure of the month.		
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
On Collection of Revenue and Committee's Control—									
Establishment									
Contingencies									
Total ...									
On District Works including all Relief Works—									
Original Works—									
Roads and Bridges...									
River and Canal Works									
Any other works									
Total ...									
Maintenance and Repairs—									
Roads and Bridges...									
River and Canal Works									
Ferries...									
Total ...									
Executive Establishment other than those paid by D. P. W.—									
Superior or Executive Establishment									
Inferior ditto, as Sub-Overseers, Sircars or Mohurrirs ...									
Office Establishments									
Total ...									
Tools and Plant—									
New Tools									
Repairs									
Total ...									
Refunds									
Grand Total ...									

_____,

Magistrate.

No. 5718.

Resolution by the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the Public Works Department,—(General) Establishments,—under date the 3rd December 1873.

Read again the orders of the Government of India Nos. 248 to 259*I.* dated 24th September 1868 with annexures, relating to anticipated scarcity in Upper India, and to measures approved for adoption in time of Famine, which were circulated by endorsements of this Office Nos. 850 to 857*I.* of 6th October 1868,—being recorded in Proceedings A. of Bengal Government in Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, for October 1868, Nos. 1 to 3.

Read again Notification No. 173 of May 1872, being Rules "*for guidance* of District Magis-"trates and Heads of Departments, District Committees, and Engineers entrusted with "Local Works constructed from Local, Provincial or Imperial Funds," recorded in Proceedings A. of Bengal Government in Public Works Department, Establishments, for May 1872, Nos. 1 and 2.

Read Chapter XIII.-*A.* of the Public Works Code relating to "measures to be adopted in time of Famine."

Read Resolution by the Government of India in Public Works Department, No. 431 B. C. dated 28th October 1873, received in this Office, relative to the undertaking of Relief Works where urgently required in regard to the impending scarcity in parts of Bengal, and also referring to the above mentioned orders of 24th September 1868, and Chapter of the Public Works Department Code.

Read orders of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the Financial Department (Scarcity and Relief,) contained in Resolution dated 3rd, Circular No 80 dated 17th and Resolution dated 25th November 1873, relating to the works and measures to be carried out in the Civil and Public Works Departments of this Government for affording relief to people who may suffer from failure of crops in certain Districts.

RESOLUTION.—With reference to Chapter XIII.-*A.* of the Public Works Code and the instructions issued by the Government of India in September 1868, by which local Officers are now to be guided, subject to difference of practice which local circumstances may render necessary; and in reference to and continuation of the above mentioned Resolution dated 25th November 1873 by this Government in the Financial (Scarcity and Relief) Department, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to record the following observations and instructions for the information and guidance of all Officers concerned in carrying out Relief Works in the districts, which have been, or may be designated, Distressed Districts.

1. *General organization.*—The Commissioner of the Division has general control of all relief measures and works. He must be cognizant of all matters connected with relief, and, unless in instances specially excepted, all communications on the subject of relief from local Officers of every Department, as well as from Civil Officers, should be submitted through him.

(*a.*) The Magistrate is the local head of all relief measures and works, and will, subject to the Commissioner's orders, decide when works are to be undertaken or discontinued; how they are to be carried out; and whether wages are to be paid in coin or kind, or both. He will also have a general control in regard to the rate of wages, and other such matters. He will, in short, direct all relief operations.

(*b.*) Relief Works are to be considered District Works and dealt with under the rules published in the Notification No. 173 of May 1872, according to which they will be carried out, subject to any modifications ordered in this Resolution; and all District Works in distressed districts are to be considered Relief Works.

2. *Execution and control of works.*—The professional control of Relief Works will remain with the Superintending and District Engineers; and under the special circumstances of necessity and want of proper estimates,

which may possibly exist in many instances, it is necessary that these officers should be more than ever active in their supervision. The number of Superintending Engineers will be increased, and large and liberal assistance in Engineers is being granted to districts. The Lieutenant-Governor will expect that the Relief Works will be very efficiently carried on in every respect.

3. *Employment, classification and tasking of Laborers.*—It is to be considered as a condition of employment on Public Works that every person shall give some labor in exchange for the wages given.

(*a.*) The work-people should be divided primarily into two classes—

I.—Those who can perform a full day's work at the usual rates.
II.—Those who cannot do so.

(*b.*) Class I. should receive full wages, or payment for full work, and if necessary should be retrenched for short work as usual; but not so as to bring them below the wages of Class II., which they should join if found habitually unable to give the proper amount of work.

(*c.*) Work-people of Class I. should be drafted off to the more important works which it is desired to carry out in the ordinary manner, where they can be under proper supervision, and where the proper amount of work can be ensured from them. This should only be done to the extent to which required for such works, and if there are more laborers in Class I. than there is proper work for, the surplus should be put into Class II.

(*d.*) Class II. will receive mere subsistence wages; but those who can render a tolerable return of work may be tasked, and paid according to the amount of work done. Such tasks must be fixed according to circumstances by the District Engineer, subject to approval by the Magistrate. The amount of the subsistence wages should be determined by the local Officer subject to the approval of the Commissioner with reference to local circumstances, and the result reported to Government in this Department.

(*e.*) Officers in charge of work-people must consider it a part of their duty to watch the condition of their work-people, and to bring it to the Magistrate's notice as necessary.

4. *Rate and payment of wages.*—The Lieutenant-Governor desires that, as a rule, there shall be but one rate of daily wage in each district or tract for each class of work-people, as already defined. This rate to be fixed, for Class I., at the ordinary rates of the district as at present prevailing. The rates for Class II. will be determined as above explained, but will generally be lower than those for Class I. and can never be higher.

(*a.*) These rates are to remain fixed; but when the market price of rice rises above 10 seers per rupee, the Government will sell rice or other food to the *work-people* at not less than 10 seers per rupee whatever may be the current district rate of food. The food will be sold under the rules contained in Appendix A. of this Resolution.

(*b.*) Ordinarily the payments on Relief Works should be made daily, especially in regard to Class II. But an interval of two days may be allowable or necessary; and when the times are not very bad, a longer time might, perhaps, be allowed, especially to Class I. On these matters the Magistrate will be the judge, and decide what may be done.

(*c.*) The payments must be made in the presence of a trustworthy person, and the working parties must be frequently visited by the supervising officers. This matter of payment must receive special attention.

5. *Payment of wages in kind and distribution of cooked food to the laborers.*—It is not anticipated that, with the arrangements for selling rice, which have been laid down in the preceding paragraph, there will be any necessity of payment of wages in kind, or of distribution of cooked food. Should this be necessary in special instances, special arrangements must be made under the orders of the Magistrate, and reported in due course. Should there seem likely to be any general necessity for payment in kind as time progresses, the

matter will receive the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor, and special orders will be issued.

6. When large bodies of workmen are collected, or likely to be collected at a distance from markets, the Magistrate can sanction the Engineer's arranging for establishing one or more petty dealers at each work, who will sell food and firewood to the laborers. The cost of housing and establishing such dealers would be chargeable to the works; and the men could, when necessity arose, be employed as "Moodees" or depôt-holders under Appendix A.

7. *Hutting of laborers, &c.*—On any work where a large number of laborers will be for any number of weeks employed, it will be very necessary to provide for shelter, sanitation and water-supply; where jungle wood, bamboos and grass may be abundant the coolies may be left to build their own huts; where materials may be less abundant some small head money or allowance may have to be made; and where the country is all thoroughly open and cultivated it may be necessary for the Engineer to arrange shelter for the laborers. In any case the hutting space will have to be chosen and marked out with some regard to ventilation and sanitation. Attempt must be made to make the coolies of each camp foul the ground near their huts as little as possible, and the huts should be of light moveable materials. As one embankment or work is finished and the coolies move on to another, they would carry the bamboos or posts of their huts with them; and the necessity for such periodical moves will constitute a valuable security against the breaking out of epidemics. In most parts of Bengal water for drinking purposes will be available; but the places of supply will have to be fenced in or in some way guarded from pollution. In Behar it will often be necessary to dig temporary* wells for the supply of the laborers; where water is scarce this very important requirement will have to be provided for. The Magistrate will have full discretion to permit charges of the kind adverted to in this paragraph to be debited to the works.

* NOTE.—Even where kutcha wells may be insufficient, wells lined with matting or earthen cylinders would suffice. Masonry wells should not be sunk if it can possibly be helped.

8. *Progress of relief.*—In order to show clearly the amount of relief afforded by works, a daily report of the number of work-people employed will be submitted either in English or Vernacular by the person in charge of each work to the District or Sub-Divisional Engineer, who will submit a weekly report to the Magistrate showing the number of work-people employed and the wages paid them. From these returns, fortnightly returns for each principal work, and as regards petty works, for each Sub-Division of each district, will be submitted by the Magistrate to the Commissioner, and to the Public Works Department of this Secretariat.

(*a.*) Rules and forms for the preparation of these returns are contained in Appendix B. of this Resolution.

(*b.*) The Lieutenant-Governor will expect great care in the preparation of these returns, and the utmost exactness in their submission. To ensure this, and to avoid hampering the executive efficiency of officers by these returns, the rules contain provision for their being prepared and submitted by the Office Establishments of the Magistrate and District Engineer.

9. *Establishments.*—It seems undesirable in several respects, and also unnecessary, to carry on ordinary Relief Works under the ordinary Public Works system of Sub-Divisions and Sections, under Upper and Lower Subordinates. An efficient establishment of this nature could not be extemporized, and the ordinary Relief Works will probably be of such a simple nature that in general professionally trained men will not be indispensable. General laying out of work and instructions, with frequent inspection by the Engineer and his Assistant, will probably be all that will be professionally required in regard to the mass of work, which the Lieutenant-Governor thinks may be properly carried on by Mohurirs or Sircars, superintended by persons of intelligence and good character, under the general superintendence of the Engineer, as already noticed.

(*a.*) It is understood that in some districts planters, and other gentlemen of local influence and interest, will undertake a good deal of the minor Relief Works. The Lieutenant-Governor considers this an excellent arrangement which it is desirable to extend as far as possible, and he trusts that in districts where they have not done so, gentlemen of local position will come forward and take a share in carrying out Relief Works for the benefit of their tenantry and poorer neighbours.

(*b.*) In furtherance of the views already expressed, the Lieutenant-Governor will provide an Engineer for the charge of each district, in cases where two districts are at present under one Engineer. The districts which will thus obtain a separate Engineer will be—

Chumparun	In the Patna	Division.
Purneah	„ Bhaugulpore	„
Bogra	„ Rajshahye	„
Pubna		
Maldah		
Bancoorah	„ Burdwan	„

(*c.*) An Assistant Engineer will also be given to each of the districts in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Commissionerships, an additional Assistant Engineer to the Patna, and for the present three additional Assistant Engineers to the Purneah District, in consequence of the heavy works in those districts. The bridges on the Ganges and Darjeeling Road will then be taken from the Purneah District, and made into a separate charge. Should this amount of assistance be considered likely to be insufficient, Commissioners will give early intimation thereof, and what additional assistance they will require. If at any time it should prove possible to give up any portion of these extra establishments, an immediate report should be made.

(*d.*) The Relief Works in the Rajshahye Commissionership will be partly cared for by Major Lindsay, R. E., and the staff of the Northern Bengal State Railway: the requirements of the remaining portion of the Division are not at present known, but will be disposed of as soon as the reports are received.

(*e.*) In the Circular No. 80 (read above) authority has been given to the local entertainment of extra establishments as required. As far as Relief Works are concerned, these establishments will be for the purposes indicated in paragraphs 4 and 9; and the Lieutenant-Governor will look to the local Officers to arrange for all establishments subordinate to the Engineers, except for really important professional works, when application may be made to Government for additional assistance, after the most has been made of the subordinates attached to districts. These applications must show clearly how existing Public Works Establishments are employed, and how it is proposed to employ those applied for.

10. *Tools.*—It is customary in many districts for the work-people to bring their own tools. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish this custom to be upheld as far as possible. Not only will the Government be thereby relieved of the necessity of providing a large number of tools; but the laborers will not part with their implements, and will have the tools ready to resume their ordinary occupations on leaving the Relief Works.

(*a.*) At the same time, it must be realized that destitute people are not to be refused work for want of tools. It will, in some instances, be a difficult and delicate duty to require tools from the people, and at the same time not to withhold them in cases where they cannot be brought. The Lieutenant-Governor must look to the tact and arrangements of the Commissioners, Magistrates and those engaged in the work to give the best effect possible to his wishes.

(*b.*) A depôt of tools will be formed at the Head-Quarters of each Commissioner, and the tools will be distributed under his orders to the different districts.

(*c.*) Commissioners will report what number of tools in excess of those available and procurable locally must be sent to the depots, in order to enable

them to meet the cases in which it may be necessary to supply tools. In this report baskets should not be overlooked.

11. *Accounts.*—In order to keep the Government properly informed of the progress of the expenditure during the present emergency, it is necessary that the district accounts of expenditure should be submitted monthly. This has been already ordered in a separate Circular No. 5716 dated 3rd current; but it is again repeated here that Relief Work accounts must be submitted in the form and under the procedure laid down for District Works accounts. It is extremely desirable that these accounts should be sent in punctually, as arrear accounts will greatly impair the executive efficiency of Engineer Officers: the District Engineer may, therefore, with the Commissioner's sanction, entertain extra Accountants and Clerks chargeable to Relief Works within reasonable limits.

(a.) In order to mark distinctly the extra establishments due to Relief Works, additional sub-heads should be entered in the extract from Register of Monthly Receipts and Expenditure, which is furnished to the Controller. These sub-heads should show separately—

a.—Superior Executive Establishment.
b.—Inferior ditto, such as Sircars and Mohurirs.
c.—Office Establishments.

(*b.*) The monthly accounts must be submitted punctually by the 20th of each month, as ordered.

ORDERS.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution with its Appendices, of the Resolution by the Government of India in Public Works Department dated 28th October 1873, (with copy of their previous Resolution of 24th September 1868), and of the Orders of the Lieutenant-Governor in the Financial Department (Scarcity and Relief) of 3rd, 17th and 25th November 1873 *read* above, be forwarded to the Superintending Engineers of all Public Works Circles in Bengal, to the Superintending Engineer of Northern Bengal State Railway, and to the Controller of Public Works Accounts in Bengal, for information and guidance.

ORDERED ALSO that a copy of this Resolution with its Appendices be forwarded to the Commissioners of all Divisions in Bengal and to the Officiating Joint Secretary to the Government of Bengal in Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, for information and guidance; and to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in Financial Department (Scarcity and Relief) for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

J. E. T. NICOLLS, *Col., R. E.,*

Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department.

No. 5718A.

Copy of the above Resolution and of its appendices, together with copy of its enclosures, forwarded to the Commissioner of Assam in Public Works Department for information.

Appendix A.

Rules for guidance of Officers in charge of works when the quantity of rice obtainable for 1 rupee is less then 10 seers.

When the quantity of rice obtainable for 1 rupee is less then 10 seers, the Magistrate, under the orders of the Commissioner, will arrange for the opening of local depôts in connection with the relief works, at which food will be sold to work-people at the rate of not less than 10 seers for the rupee, so as to avoid the necessity for increasing the rate of wages.

2. It will rest with the Magistrate of the district to make timely arrangements, in the first instance, for the opening of local depôts, in convenient localities, for the supply of rice, for the erection of local stores or depôts, and for the engagement of Store-keepers or Moodees for the sale of rice at the fixed rate of 10 seers for the rupee.

3. When local depôts have been established, the Moodees will be supplied with rice by indent made by the Officer in charge of the work on the Officer in charge of the general rice depôt of the district. It will be the duty of the Officer in charge of the work to see that indents are submitted timely, and to fix, in communication with the Officer in charge of the general rice depôt, the number of days' notice required.

4. The Officer in charge of the general rice depôt will arrange for the delivery of the rice at the local depôt or Moodee's shop. A receipt in duplicate of the number of maunds of rice received should be taken by him from the Moodee, and he will recover the value of the rice at the rate of 4 Rs. per maund from the Officer in charge of the work, by a cheque on the Sudder Treasury.

5. The Officer in charge of the work will open a suspense account of rice, subordinate to the general head of Miscellaneous Advances, to which will be charged the value of rice and any expenses connected with the local depôt or Moodee's shop, and to which will be credited the amount received in exchange of the rice issued to work-people; any difference or loss will be adjusted at the close of the year by writing it off to the general head of "Famine Relief."

6. The Moodee will render to the Officer in charge of works an account of the number of maunds of rice received and of the daily quantity of rice issued; the amount received for the rice will be paid over to the Officer in charge of the works, or to his order, at intervals of not more than three or four days.

7. As regards the issue of rice to the laborers, the Magistrate of the district will fix a limit as to the quantity of rice to be issued daily to each person, men, women and children; and will also, if he considers it necessary, lay down the rules under which it should be issued; but unless orders to the contrary are received, the Officer in charge of works should proceed as follows.

8. The coolies should be arranged in gangs of a convenient size (perhaps from 10 to 20 in each) working under a gangsman or duffadar, who will be responsible for the coolies' task of work and for seeing that each person in his gang receives the authorized daily wages, and that the rice obtained from the shop is properly distributed to each person. In consideration of this duty, he might be exempted from the ordinary task of work.

9. Subordinate agents should also be employed in such proportion to the number of laborers on the work as may be fixed by the Magistrate, and the salary of these men will be charged to the work.

10. Payments will be made daily, if practicable, to each laborer, in the presence of the gangsman; the payment will be in cash, but each gangsman will be entitled to claim a ticket or order on the Moodee for whatever quantity of rice he may desire within the limit of issue fixed for each person employed under paragraph 7 of these rules, at the rate of 10 seers for the rupee, for which payment must be made to the Moodee at the time of delivery. It will be optional with the gangsman to take an order for the whole or portion of the quantity of rice allowable for his party. Tickets should be supplied to the subordinate agents, in books of 100 each, with counterfoils. The ticket will be issued to the gangsman, and the counterfoil will be retained by the agent.

11. The agent will be a sub-imprest-holder of the Officer in charge of the work, and in addition to rendering the daily report of the number of coolies employed, as provided for in Appendix B., he will keep a Muster Roll of the persons employed, and also an Imprest Cash Book in the usual Public Works Form.

Appendix B.

Rules for the submission of periodical returns of the number of laborers employed on Relief Works.

1. In authorizing a relief work to be carried out, the Magistrate should assign to each work a serial number by which the work may be identified in *all* returns till its completion, so as to avoid confusion in the nomenclature of works from the similarity of names and places.

2. In the case of works on which the sanction for outlay on each is less than Rs. 500, the whole of the works of each class in each Sub-Division of the District should be treated as *one work only*, such as "clearing out tanks in the Buxar Sub-Division," or "village paths in the Hajeepore Sub-Division," thus avoiding the unnecessary detail of works in the accompanying Forms, and in the accounts.

3. Every Subordinate or Agent in actual charge of work-people must submit daily to the District Engineer, or other Officer in charge of works, a daily report of the number of work-people employed on each work, in the Form A. The right-hand portion of the Form, as printed, will be despatched, and the counterfoil will be retained for the time being by the Subordinate in charge.

4. Where the work is a road of more than 10 miles in length, it should be divided into two or more sections, and each section should be treated as a separate work in respect to the submission of daily reports of the work-people employed.

5. Every District Engineer or other Officer in similar charge of works must submit weekly to the Magistrate of the district a statement, Form B., shewing the number of men, women and children employed each day on each work under his charge. The statement must be submitted every Monday, for the week ending on the previous Saturday, and in the event of the District Engineer being absent from his head-quarters, the statement will be signed and despatched by the next Senior Officer present, or by the Accountant of the Office; but the Office copy of the statement must be submitted to the Engineer immediately on his return to Office.

6. The Magistrate of each district will prepare fortnightly an abstract of all the reports received from the District Engineer or Officers in similar charge of works, in the Form C. This abstract statement should be despatched to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, every alternate Wednesday, (the first statement being despatched on the 17th December), and should embrace the fourteen days ending with the preceding Saturday. The report will shew the total number of men, women and children employed on each work during the fourteen days, the average daily number, that is, the total number divided by fourteen, and the actual number employed on the last of the fourteen days, which will afford some idea whether the laborers are increasing or decreasing in number. A copy of the Statement C. should be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Division.

7. In the event of the Magistrate being absent from head-quarters on the due date for despatch, the Statement C. should be signed and despatched by the Officer in charge of the Sudder Sub-Division, or by the Clerk in charge of the special duties of scarcity and relief; but the Office copy of the statement must be placed before the Magistrate immediately on his return to head-quarters.

8. In the column of remarks, Statement C., it will be desirable to give any information available as to the proportion of different classes of persons employed, so as to shew whether they belong to the ordinary laboring or non-laboring classes or castes, as this will afford a good index to the pressure of the scarcity in the district.

The Forms above referred to will be available on indent, from the Superintendent of Stationery.

Enclosures 1 *to* 4 *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 29*th November to* 5*th December* 1873.

Rainfall, Weather and State and Prospects of the Crops.

Statement showing Rainfall, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops in the different Districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 29th November 1873.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL.			
	Western Districts.		
BURDWAN DIVISION.			
1	Burdwan, 2nd* Dec 1873	Nil	Cloudy, but no rain. Were rain to fall now, it would do more harm than good to the late rice crops. Nowan rice has been cut and has lowered the price of common rice in some places. Export of limited quantities to Behar continues. Fever prevalent.
2	Bancoorah, 29th Nov. „	Nil	Cloudy. The sowings of the cold weather crops are nearly completed, but the extent of cultivation is very small. The reaping of the rice crop continues. There has been some exportation of rice to Raneegunge, but prices have not risen here.
3	Beerbhoom, 29th „ „	Nil	Dry and clear during the first half of the week, cloudy in the latter half. Harvest of late rice progressing; yield of this crop, which is somewhat over two-thirds of the whole, estimated to be about six annas, giving with the ten-anna yield of the early crop a total on the two crops of about eight annas or about 3,500,000 maunds of cleaned rice, only sufficient with economy for home consumption. Export by rail for week ending 22nd November close on 14,800 maunds, chiefly to the Bhaugulpore and Patna Divisions. Prices show an upward tendency.
4	Midnapore, 29th „ „	A few drops of rain fell on each of the last three days.	Seasonable, cloudy, and cold. No change needing comment has occurred since last report, except that there has been a slight rise in the price of rice in the town, which is probably due to present cloudy weather, which to some extent affects the preparation and importation of rice in the markets.
5	Hooghly, 29th „ „	03	Clear and cloudy. Wind from north-west. Little rain fell on the night of the 28th November Personal inquiry made by the Collector has shown that irrigation has preserved more of the crop than was thought possible, and he entertains hopes of an eight-anna crop. The slight showers may help the sowing of some cold weather crops, but it is almost too late now for this. The area sown is, however, larger than previously reported by the police. The sugarcane crop not much below the average The cloudy weather, if it continues, will injure the pulses and oil seed.
	Howrah, 29th „ „	Nil	The sky was cloudy on Thursday, some rain fell that night, more fell on Friday, and on Saturday it rained still more. The rain, though gentle and scanty, was general throughout the district, but too late to benefit the rice crops. It has moistened the ground pretty well, and it is hoped that it has sufficed to enable the people to sow some cold weather crops which could not otherwise have been grown. There is nothing whatever to add to the last report about the rice crops, their state and prospects continue unchanged; the crops at Oolooberriah and Ampta are better than at first believed. The fever in Sibpore is showing signs of abating, and that in Belgatchea is at least not worse.
	Central Districts.		
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
6	24 Pergunnahs, 2nd† Dec. 1873.	0 08	Cloudy, with a slight shower on Saturday, which has lowered the temperature. There has been no improvement since last report. While a good shower would have benefited the cold weather sowings, it would have injured the late rice, which is now being rapidly cut except on beel lands From Satkhirah it is reported that the mustard is being injured by insects. Epidemic fever still prevails in parts of Barripore and Bassirhat. There is some fever in Baraset and the places adjacent. One case of small-pox reported at Satkhirah where fever is abating.
7	Nuddea, 29th Nov. 1873	Nil	Heavy clouds for the last three or four days. There was a little drizzling rain at 2 P.M of the 29th instant, enough to lay the dust. The appearance of the sky is such that in an ordinary season rain would be confidently looked for. The late rice harvest has begun; no change has occurred in the prospect of the outturn Not more than four annas is to be looked for. Arhur (pulse), teel (oil-seed), chillies, sugarcane and date-sugar all promise fairly, but all other cold weather crops are miserably poor. In the event of a tolerable fall of rain, grain and other seeds might still be sown. Prices are rising but little In most parts of the district coarse rice can be had for Rs 2-8 per maund, and in some for less. The sub-divisional officer reports distress in the part of Meherpore west of Jeilinghee, a tract which depends upon the late rice and cold weather crops By "distress" it is supposed that apprehension is meant rather than actual suffering, since, even under the most favorable circumstances, no crop could have been reaped by this time. A road has been projected by the District Committee for the benefit of this part of the country, which will be taken in hand The Collector's cold weather tour is so arranged that he hopes to see this tract in about a fortnight
8	Jessore, 29th „ „	Nil	The last few days have been cloudy, and there have been a few drops of rain on the 29th November The late rice crop is being reaped The continued drought has not much affected the previous estimates of the outturn Prices have made a very marked rise during the week. The price of goor (molasses), the produce of date tree, has risen owing to the commencement of manufacture The peasantry at this season depend a good deal on this important industry The prospects of the cold weather crops are generally much the same as last week They would be much benefited by a gentle rainfall, of which the present hazy state of the atmosphere gives some, though not very certain, promise

* Telegram of the 2nd December received on the same day. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding

† Report of the 2nd December received on the same day. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)			
	Central Districts—(Contd.)		
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION. 9	Moorshedabad, 29th Nov. 1873.	Nil	Somewhat hotter in the day, but cooler at night; the sky was cloudy, with prospects of rain on the 29th November. No change for the better is observed, as there has been no rain during the week. The outturn of the late rice crop in the Jungipore sub division is still expected to be seven annas; in the Rampurehant sub division, not more than a five-anna crop is expected. The cold weather crops are very backward in most places; in the Pulsa thanuah no sowings have yet been made. Sugarcane and indigo are progressing favorably in the north. Prices are lowering this week owing partly to importation and partly to the introduction of the newly-cut rice into the markets.
10	Dinagepore, 29th " "	Nil	Cloudy during the latter part of the week. Hymunty or winter paddy is being cut; the cold weather crops suffering for want of rain; sugarcane seems to promise a fair crop. The price of rice cheaper at Gungarampore since the relief works have been opened.
11	Maldah, 29th " "	Nil	Sky overcast with clouds, but no rain; regular cold weather set in; wind northerly. There has been no rain and no improvement in the state of the crops. The last three or four days have been very cloudy, and there are still hopes of rain. The amun or late rice crop is being reaped, the yield will not be more than a four-anna crop; the hymunty winter crop will be cut in a few days, it is not expected to yield more than three or four-anna crop. The cold weather crops, especially pulses in the low lands are still looking well, and if rain falls will give an average yield. A few boat loads of paddy and rice arrive at intervals from the eastern districts. Prices are not quite so favorable this week as last, especially in the north west of the district, notwithstanding the in-coming crop. Perhaps one-fourth of the cultivating classes have supplies enough to last them from two to six months, but the bulk of the people depend on the local supplies at local markets. Relief work going on on ordinary roads, and new works being projected. Health of the district good.
12	Rajshahye, 29th " "	Nil	The sky has been overcast with every appearance of rain, but no rain has fallen, and there has been scarcely any dew. The early portion of the amun or late rice crop is being reaped. What little has been sowed in the lowest lands in the Bhurind has yielded from one to two annas. In Nattore the yield will be from six to eight annas. In Pootea and the east of Beauleah, about six annas. In Bagmara and part of Singrah and Bhundaikhara, from six to eight annas. In parts of Bairaigaon the paddy is good, and from eight to twelve annas will, it is hoped, be harvested. In Charghat and Beelmaria, from six to eight annas. Boro paddy is being sown for the low lands where there is water, and in some places the seedlings are about three inches high in the nurseries. The paddy just cut near Sahibgunge (a place where the Goor river runs out of the Attrai) has been selling at one rupee per kutcha maund. The mulberry crops are looking well; sugarcane is being cut, and is a very fair crop. Wheat and barley have germinated and look well as yet, but unless it rains they will be seriously damaged. A good deal of moosoor pulse—about three to four inches high; this was sown early, the latter sowings have more or less failed owing to the want of moisture. Mustard is a rather thin crop generally this year, but there are some coming up thick. It is now in flower. Urhur and kalai pulses, and teel—oil-seed—are looking well, but require rain to ensure a crop.
13	Rungpore, 29th " "	Nil	Cloudy, but no rain; weather cool. Cutting of rice has taken place to a small extent, but the produce is scanty, and much of the crop is cut only for the straw. Mustard, millet, and other crops look fair, potatoes have been planted in large quantities. The reports from all parts but the north are very bad, and some emigration has taken place from north-east to Goalparah. Rice is selling at prices from Rs 6 to 5 a maund throughout the district, and distress is prevalent all to the south and east.
14	Bograh, 29th " "	Nil	The sky has been cloudy of late, but no rain has fallen. The cutting of the new rice has begun. Good has been done in parts by irrigation. No general improvement can be reported with regard to the late rice, but the failure is by no means a total one. In parts the crops are good.
15	Pubna, 29th " "	Nil	The weather is warm for the time of the year. Chiefly winds blow from the north-west. The last three days have been cloudy and the sunrise invisible. A few drops of rain fell on the morning of the 29th November. The low ground late rice is still being cut. There will not be less than an eight-anna crop—probably a full nine-anna crop. The winter crops are backward and much require rain.
COOCH BEHAR DIVN. 16	Darjeeling, 29th " "	Nil	Still no rain and no signs of it. In the plains the people begin to fear that they will not get even a ten-anna crop. In the hills the young crops of wheat, barley, and back wheat do not progress very favorably for want of rain, but as yet no serious loss is perceptible. Indian-corn has fallen in price during the week.
17	Julpigoree, "	" "	Return not received.
	Cooch Behar, 29th " "	Nil	Some clouds on the 27th and 28th November. The same as last week. Rice is being exported to Rungpore.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)			
	Eastern Districts.		
DACCA DIVISION. 18	Dacca, 2nd* Dec. 1873	0·2	Weather cloudy for four days, with very slight showers on the 29th and 30th November. State of the winter crops better than could have been expected. Cholera prevalent in the Moonshegunge sub-division, and virulent fever at Manickgunge.
19	Furreedpore, 29th Nov. „	Nil	Very cloudy from Wednesday up to end of the week; on Saturday a slight drizzle, but not sufficient to benefit the cold weather crops. State of the crops is much the same as last week; no change whatever in the state of the rice crop, which has been reaped in all the high lands, and in the low lands and beels reaping is still going on. The long drought of nine weeks has been very injurious to the cold weather crops of cereals, pulses, and oil-seeds, but at most these would only give four days food-supply and are not important. The harvest of this year will be three-fifths of an ordinary year, *i.e.*, about 11,003,136 maunds of paddy; if exportation does not alter the state of things this outturn will probably meet the requirements of the population for the next twelve months with a small surplus at hand, by which time the next early and boro rice crops will have been reaped. The stock at hand of the previous year is estimated at 15,950 maunds of rice and 2,770 maunds of paddy. Wheat, barley, and different sorts of pulses and peas are very little cultivated in this district, and the quantity of these grains sown have germinated, but perishing from want of rain.
20	Backergunge, 29th „ „	Nil	Cloudy. There is not much change in the state and prospects of the crops, but the cloudiness of the weather is causing apprehension, for it is feared that it will breed insects among the paddy.
21	Mymensing, 29th „ „	Nil	Cloudy since 27th November and promise of rain. No change to remark on the state and prospects of the crops. The late rice harvest is commencing everywhere.
22	Sylhet, 22nd Nov. „	Nil	Not so cool as last week. Reports from all parts of the district are favorable as to the prospects of crops; unless anything unforeseen happens; all expect a twelve-anna crop all round. The rain a fortnight ago was most beneficial to the crops; all that is to be feared now is a blight. Price of rice is going up steadily; large exportations continue. At Behadoorpore, one of the large rice marts of the district, forty large boats have come from Nattore in Rajshahye, Pubna, Furreedpore, Naraingunge, Serajgunge, Patna, Monghyr, Ghazeepore, and other places. 15,000 maunds exported from Behadoorpore up to date.
23	Cachar, „	Nil	Unseasonably warm; clouds collect for a day or two and disperse again. Thunder on Friday morning; slight rain probable; much the same as last week. The Hylakandy crop and the rice generally to the south of the river is doing well, getting a good deal of moisture from the morning fogs. Bikrampore and Kalipo paddy fair.
CHITTAGONG DIVISION. 24	Chittagong, „ „	Nil	Rather cloudy and warmer at the change of the moon, otherwise fine and seasonable. Reports generally favorable. Reaping of the late rice crops has commenced in the south of the district. The damage done by insects in Meerkasorai and Seetacoond is reported to be inconsiderable.
25	Noakhally „ „	Nil	Fair. The slight rain at the beginning of the month is said to have done some good at Luckhipore. In Sudaram, Begumgunge, and Ramgunge, the prospects are much what they were last week. The average loss at Sundeep and Ameergunge is still reported at four annas. Reports from other parts of the district are more favorable. Price of ordinary rice has risen from 21 to 18 seers per rupee. Much sickness in the town.
26	Tipperah, 29th „ „	Nil	Fine, though rather hot for the first three days of the week; the last four days have been very gloomy and must have, it is feared, blighting effect on the reaping crop. In the head-quarters sub-division an eight-anna rice crop may be expected in succession to a generally good early rice crop. As it is supposed that the district annually exports half its crops, this should be enough for home consumption and something more, and it is said that the ryots are sufficiently provident. From Brahmunbariah it is reported that the large and rich pergunnah of Buldakhally will give a twelve-anna crop, and the rest of the sub-division a six-anna crop.
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts, 22nd Nov. 1873.	Nil	Cloudy up to 9 A.M. in the morning, and much less cold at night than in last week. The cotton is now being gathered and the prospect is good; the mustard crop is sown and fully germinating; the outturn of the former is promising.
	Hill Tipperah, 22nd Nov. 1873.	Nil	Bright during the beginning of the week; slightly cloudy and close during the remainder. Paddy reaping has commenced; the mustard crop has germinated in some places and promises fairly. Prices stationary.
BEHAR.			
PATNA DIVISION. 28	Patna, 1st† Dec. 1873	Nil	Weather clear and cold. No alteration in the state of crops since last report: there is still time to sow the rest of the cold weather crops, about half of which has been sown, if there be rain in the next fifteen days. Health of the district good.
29	Gya, 29th „ „	Nil	Cool and cloudy. No rain is reported to have fallen in any part of the district. No improvement in the state of the crops. Rain is much wanted for the cold weather crops. In the Aurungabad sub-division insects are said to be attacking the cold weather crops.
30	Shahabad, 29th „ „	Nil	One day cloudy and threatening and now clear and cold. In Sasseram sowings of cold weather crops can be carried on for another fifteen days. Sugarcane, where unirrigated, is being cut. No change for the worse in the cold weather crops generally.

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† Telegram of the 1st December received on the 2nd. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)			
PATNA DIVISION.—(*Contd.*)			
31	Tirhoot, 29th Nov. 1873	Nil	Cool, sometimes cloudy. In the Seetamurhi sub-division, wheat, oat, mustard, linseed, cucumber, and moosoor pulse sown in the lands that can be irrigated, are flourishing, but where irrigation is not possible, only half that was sown has come up. One-third of the area usually sown with cold weather crops, in the *slaba of* Shewhur, remains unsown. Wheat, grain, oats, moosoor and khesaree pulses, cucumber, peas, mustard, and linseed are sown, and three-eighths of the same has come up well. At Bazidpore and Patheali the people have cut the dried paddy and sown cold weather crops in the ground. The tract of country between Poopree and Kamtoul is backward as regards the cold weather crops, and the rice crop has been almost a total failure. In the Durbhangah sub-division, about fifteen-sixteenths of the paddy crops are lost. The prospects of the cold weather crops are worse than last week. In the Mudhoobanee sub-division the state of the rice crops not improved. The hope of a cold weather crop becoming less daily in the absence of rain In the Tajpore sub-division nothing has transpired to alter the condition of the crops, except that of course seven days more drought has dried everything more. There is no reason yet to despair of the cold weather crops. Some of the lands from which paddy has been cut are being prepared for the cold weather crops in the hopes of rain falling. In the sudder sub-division the weather has been cloudy during the week, but there has been no rain. Heavy dews seem to do some amount of good. The prospect of the cold weather crops is much the same. That sown in the low lands and lands irrigated looks promising, but growth has stopped. More seed has germinated than was at first anticipated. Lands on which paddy has failed are being cultivated, and the sowings of cold weather crops in such lands will go on till the middle of December. Cold weather crop has been sown more than usual in this part of the country.
32	Sarun, 29th „ „	Nil	Cool, east and west winds. The prospects are gloomy, but the cold weather crop is still doing well, though rain is much wanted. Sugarcane is being cut and put into the mills. People are being employed on the district local roads, and relief works have been also opened in the town and are affording employment to larger numbers. Prices have slightly fallen.
33	Chumparun, 29th „ „	Nil	Weather cool, with west winds. The prospect of the late rice crop is more gloomy than heretofore. There will not be even a 2-anna crop as anticipated last week. Up to date 12 annas of the cold weather crop lands have been cultivated, the seed in half of which has germinated, and the plants on two annas have been destroyed by insects and on four annas the seed did not germinate at all. As yet the young plants are looking healthy, but if it does not rain soon they will die except those on banks and beds of rivers, where there is water-supply available for artificial irrigation.
BHAGULPORE DIVN.			
34	Monghyr, 29th „ „	Nil	Heavy clouds all Thursday and Friday, but quite clear on Saturday. No rain, weather cold. Slight shock of earth-quake on Thursday. Crop as much worse than last week as another week's drought can make it. A small average of hardy cold weather crop like ruhur pulse may live through it, but the rest must shortly perish entirely.
35	Bhaugulpore, 2nd* Dec „	Nil	Very cloudy from the 26th November, on which day there was a slight shock of earth-quake. No rain. Reaping of the late rice commenced. Prospects of the cold weather crops continue good. Price of rice falling slightly, and new rice in the markets in Banka sub-division sells at 17-8 seers per rupee. Health of the district very good.
36	Purneah, 29th Nov. „	Nil	The clouds which were hanging about have cleared away. The reports from the neighbourhood of the Kusi are good. The winter rice has yielded a full crop. The mustard in the south promises well; reports from Araireah are also very favorable. The wheat which has been sown is giving fair promise of coming to maturity. From Kishengunge it is reported that though the wheat and pulses sown have germinated, they are withering for want of rain. Here too the rice crop has been a great failure. The worst part of the district is the east of thannah Kusba Amoor and Kudbah; the winter rice has nearly all failed, and what cold weather crop has been sown is being attacked by insects. The sowing is not so forward as in other parts. Importation has commenced and prices have suddenly risen.
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs, 29th Nov. 1873.	Nil	Latter part of the week cloudy and consequently great want of dew at night. The aghany or late crop is being reaped in Rajmehal, but no improvement is reported. The cold weather crop will not succeed, if there be no rain. From Deoghur an eight or nine-anna crop is still expected, but exportation is continuous. Sudder sub-division—no change.
ORISSA.			
ORISSA DIVISION.			
38	Cuttack, 2nd* Dec. 1873	0·27	Weather cool, late sarud rice ripening, and early sarud rice is almost harvested Public health good.
39	Pooree, 22nd Nov „	Nil	Generally hot and dry; 19th and 20th colder, with a few clouds at Khurdah. A little rainfall on the 16th November in the southern part, and the sky was cloudy towards north-west on that day. The laghu or second rice crop is still being reaped; more than half the harvest has been gathered, the outturn is good. The sarud or late rice is coming on and will ripen shortly; the present state and prospects are fair, and the produce is expected to be an average crop. The cold weather crops are growing well and promising. Prices rising owing to purchases of grain for export to Calcutta and other places. Dengue and intermittent fevers are somewhat prevalent.
40	Balasore, 29th „ „	·1	Weather very cloudy. Paddy cutting going on very rigorously. Miscellaneous crops doing well.

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No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
CHOTA NAGPORE.			
	South-West Frontier Agency.		
41	Hazareebaugh, 29th Nov. 1873.	Nil	Clear and cloudy alternately; a sprinkling of rain is reported here and there. No material change in the prospects of the crops since last week. The little rainfall will undoubtedly benefit the young cold weather crops, but was insufficient for the purpose of getting the land which had not been sown, under cultivation. Insects are reported to have made their appearance in some parts of the district and damaging the crops.
42	Lohardugga , ,,	Nil	Cloudy, with rain threatening. Nearly all the paddy has now been cut, and the reports from the district show that the general average for the sudder sub-division will be about ten to eleven annas of an average crop. The quantity of land under cultivation for the cold weather crop is much smaller than usual owing to the want of rain, and for the same reason what crops there are will be short. From Palamow a general average from four to five annas is expected as regards the rice crops. The prospects of the cold weather crops are bad, not more than a four-anna crop being now expected.
43	Singbhoom 22nd ,,	Nil	Cloudless sky, days hot, nights cold. There is very little to add to the report of last week. No rain has fallen; but rain now, so far as the rice crops are concerned, would be of very little use one way or the other There are good hopes that most of the low land crops will be saved in Dhalbhoom, Seral Keyla, and Porahaut from the active and energetic measures in course to irrigate artificially; and in the Colehan from the circumstances that a great part of such low lands as there are are natural low lands, that is the hollows and ravines that carry off the drainage of the undulating or hilly country, and such lands will keep sufficiently moist till the crops are all cut. Some portions of the more northern (Colehan) pirs immediately adjacent to Chaebassa have suffered less than the southern pirs. The winter crops are turning out very badly. The kurthi, orid pulses are all more or less dead or dying from want of moisture, and there is very little mustard and surgooja (oil-seed) this year, whereas other years the district exported oil-seed very largely.
44	Maunbhoom, 29th ,,	Nil	Coudy, but no rain. The late rice is now being cut, but it is too soon to be able to give a correct estimate of the outturn, it will however most probably average a twelve-anna crop which, with the loss sustained in the other rice crop, will reduce the yield about half a crop all round. Those villages, however, which have no means of irrigating the low lands have suffered considerably, and distress in those may be expected to show itself shortly The crops of surgooja (oil-seed) and kurthi (pulse) have been better on the Gobindpore than in the sudder sub-division, but the yield will not exceed a four-anna crop all round. The sugarcane has suffered considerably from want of moisture, and will only give an indifferent return. The wheat, barley, and potatoes lately planted at present promise well, but will require rain before long.
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.			
45	Goalparah, 22nd Nov. 1873	Nil	Weather cool, nights and mornings dewy. No change in the prospect. The late rice crop is expected to be an eight-anna one. Harvesting of the late rice and moong crops and ploughing of land for early rice have commenced in some places. Mustard is not getting on well and somewhat injured in Khoontaghat by insects. The cutting of jute is completed and outturn fair. A shock of earth-quake at 11 P.M. of the 17th instant.
46	Kamroop, 1st* Dec. ,,	Nil	No rain fell. In the early part of the week misty mornings, clear days with cool north-east wind and dewy nights. In the latter part the sky was overcast. Late rice is being reaped in some places, and likely to yield half ordinary outturn. Sugarcane and mustard crops progressing favorably. Public health good.
47	Durrung, 22nd Nov. ,,	Nil	Bright days, nights cold, range of temperature high, north-east wind prevailing. In the southern portions of the Mungledye sub division three fourths of the rice crops are ruined for want of rain. To the north, where the land is irrigated, the crops are first-rate. In the centre of the district the rice crop is fair and some of it ready for the sickle. To the east of the district the acconuts are on the whole unfavorable. Rain wanted; but pulses, mustard, and sugarcane looking well, being favored by the heavy dews. Public health good, with the exception of fevers probably brought on by chills.
48	Nowgong, ,,	Nil	Weather seasonable, with very heavy dews at night, and cold foggy mornings. The rice crop now on the ground not so poor or bad as might have been anticipated from the late drought. In several places to the west of the district a full bumper crop will be realized. On the whole an average crop may be looked for. The early rice crop reaped and stored in August was a full one. The kalai pulse crop now on the ground doing middling, mustard doing poorly, sugarcane doing well, and largely cultivated this season. Tea operations very nearly concluded. General health good.
49	Seebsaugor, 22nd ,,	Nil	Mornings and nights are cold and foggy, days bright and sunny. No indication of rain. The prospect of the rice crop continues the same as before. Harvesting has commenced in a few places. No rain has fallen during the week—a bad prospect for the mustard crop.
50	Luckimpore, 22nd ,,	Nil	No rain during the week, the middle of the day is still hot, but the mornings and evenings are very cool. The state of the rice crop generally is neither very good nor very bad. The outturn will probably be about two-thirds of an average year; there does not appear to be any cause for anxiety. The crop is just commencing to be reaped. The cold weather crops promise well. The report from North Luckimpore is "crops good, taken as a whole, the pulses are not quite so good as usual; but the rice, so far as is reported, leaves nothing to be desired except in a few high spots near the Berhampooter, but these suffer more or less every year." Public health has improved, but fever not yet disappeared.

* Telegram of the 1st December received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.—(*Contd.*)			
51	Naga Hills, 15th Nov. 1873.	Nil	Seasonable throughout the district, and everything that could be desired All "joom" crops have been cut and gathered in, and the outturn in the hills is said to have been a remarkably good one, better by far they have had for years past. The hill "terai" crops are now being cut and promise to give an equally good yield. In the plains, however, portions of the "pathar" crops have suffered from want of rain, and the outturn is therefore not expected to be even a fair one, still there is no actual apprehension of want anywhere in the district, and in the greater portion of it the yield will be above the average. Fever still very prevalent.
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills, 22nd Nov. 1873.	Nil	Fine and cold The whole of the rice crop has been gathered. The murwah is doing well. Rice just now is plentiful and has been selling this week at a cheaper rate than that of last week, and it there is no failure of crops in the plains of Sylhet, Mymensingh, and Assam bordering on the hills, no scarcity will be felt here Another food grain jobstears (corn) is nearly ripe for the sickle, and the yield is not likely to fall short of last year.
53	Garo Hills, 22nd Nov. 1873.	Nil	Much the same as last week except that a few drops of rain fell on Monday morning. The atmosphere has been on some days clear. The few drops of rain which fell in the vicinity of Tura extended over too small an area to affect the crops The ground is in much the same state as during the past week, viz. dry, dusty, and cracked, such as it usually is in February and March The cotton, which will be gathered later in the season, must necessarily be deficient in quantity, but in some cultivations the outturn is already said to be fair.

Published for general information.

CALCUTTA, STATISTICAL DEPT.,
The 2nd December 1873.

R. KNIGHT,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Govt. of {1873} Bengal.

STATISTICAL DEPT.

Progs. 1873.

File

No. B.

Statement showing rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops in the different districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 29th November 1873.

PRICES-CURRENT of Food-grains and Salt in the under

QUANTITIES PER RUPEE

Number.	DISTRICTS.	Wheat: Present returns.	Wheat: Next preceding return.	Wheat: Corresponding return of last year.	Barley: Present return.	Barley: Next preceding return.	Barley: Corresponding return of last year.	Rice, best sort: Present return.	Rice, best sort: Next preceding return.	Rice, best sort: Corresponding return of last year.	Rice, common: Present return.	Rice, common: Next preceding return.	Rice, common: Corresponding return of last year.	Bulrush Millet—Cumbood, Bajra: Present return.	Bulrush Millet—Cumbood, Bajra: Next preceding return.	Bulrush Millet—Cumbood, Bajra: Corresponding return of last year.
	BENGAL.															
	Western Districts.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.
1	Burdwan	10 8	10 12	12 0	16 0	14 0	21 0	13 6	13 8	19 8	15 0	14 8	23 0	...	...	...
2	Bancoorah	11 8	11 8	15 0	20 0	20 0	16 0	11 4	11 4	15 4	A 14 8 / B 15 4	14 8 / 15 0	19 0	...	...	...
3	Beerbhoom	10 0	10 8	14 0	..	...	..	10 8	12 0	16 8	13 8	15 0	19 8	...	...	...
4	Midnapore	10 0	10 0	11 0	...	...	...	A 14 0	14 0	17 0	A 18 0 / B 20 0	20 0 / 21 4	24 0 / 26 0	...	...	...
5	Hooghly	11 0	11 0	13 0	...	...	...	9 0	9 0	13 0	11 8	12 0	18 0	...	..	...
	Howrah	12 0	12 0	14 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	10 8	11 0	16 0	13 0	13 4	20 0	..	...	.
	Central Districts.															
6	24-Pergunnahs	...	...	12 4	.	...	24 0	8 12	8 14	8 0	C 13 5	13 4	18 4	..	...	20 0
7	Nuddea	11 7	11 7	14 8	20 0	20 0	32 0	11 7	11 7	16 0	13 5	13 5	17 12	..	...	...
8	Jessore	11 0	11 8	13 5	..	...	...	11 12	13 0	17 12	D 16 0	19 0	26 10	.	...	...
9	Moorshedabad	12 0	13 8	15 0	..	...	...	12 0	11 0	14 0	13 0	13 0	19 0	E 18 0	18 0	28 0
10	Dinagepore	11 0	11 0	13 8	16 0	16 0	22 8	12 8	12 8	21 0	14 8	14 8	28 0	...	...	...
11	Maldah	12 0	12 8	16 0	25 0	25 0	35 0	11 8	13 0	21 0	12 8	14 0	32 0	20 0	20 0	24 0
12	Rajshahye	11 4	10 8	15 0	24 0	24 0	30 0	12 0	11 0	15 0	13 8	12 12	22 8	...	...	...
13	Rungpore	9 7	9 6	11 4	...	...	...	11 2	10 2	14 10	14 0	13 0	22 8	.	...	.
14	Bograh	12 0	12 0	12 0	...	...	...	9 12	9 12	19 0	F 15 12	15 0	34 0	...	...	.
15	Pubna	15 0	15 0	16 0	..	...	..	11 4	12 0	12 0	16 0	17 0	30 0	...	...	...
16	Darjeeling	5 0	5 0	6 0	8 0	7 0	10 0	5 0	5 0	10 0	8 0	9 0	11 0	...	...	...
17	Julpigoree.*															
	Cooch Behar.*															
	Eastern Districts.															
18	Dacca	10 8	11 0	13 5	18 0	15 0	32 0	13 0	13 0	21 0	G 14 0	16 0	32 0	...	...	...
19	Ferreedpore	16 0	16 0	20 0	...	...	.	8 0	8 0	10 0	17 0	17 0	21 0	..	...	...
20	Backergunge	...	...	...	...	...		11 6	13 5	17 8	14 14	19 0	27 8	H 30to51	32to60	.
21	Mymensing	10 0	10 0	12 0	...	...	...	13 0	13 4	20 0	17 0	17 0	28 0	...	..	...
22	Sylhet†	8 0	9 0	11 0	7 0	8 0	...	13 0	16 0	23 0	17 8	23 0	33 8	..	...	...
23	Cachar†	9 2	9 2	9 2	...	...	...	13 5	13 5	16 0	17 12	26 9	29 1	..	...	...
24	Chittagong†	8 0	8 0	14 0	...	...	...	15 0	13 0	17 0	20 0	20 0	22 0	..	.	...
25	Noakhally†		...	...	..	...	...	16 0	16 0	18 0	18 0	21 0	24 0	..		.
26	Tipperah	9 0	9 0	11 0	.	...	...	16 0	16 0	20 0	17 12	20 0	32 8	..	...	..
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts†	...	..	...	.	..	..	13 13	13 13	13 13	18to18 16 0	16 0	16 0	...	...	...
	Hill Tipperah†	...	8 8	10 8	..	...	...	14 5	14 5	26 6	17 7	17 7	40 0	...	..	...

A Old.
B New.
C Price of common rice at the several sub-divisions ranges from 11-8 to 16 seers per rupee.
D Price of common rice at Jhenidah sub-division 17-8 to 21-6; Magoorah sub-division, 18-8 to 20; Bagirhat sub-division 20 to 23 seers per rupee; and best rice at the latter place 14 to 16 seers.
E In Jungipore sub-division

mentioned districts of Bengal on the 29th November 1873.

THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire-wood.			Salt.			DISTRICTS.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
																		BENGAL.
																		Western Districts
S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	22 8	90 0	100 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 4	Burdwan.
...	...	...	...	...	...	19 0	20 0	32 8	15 4	15 4	17 12	360 0	360 0	...	8 2	8 0	8 8	Bancoorah
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	...	11 4	13 0	22 0	210 0	240 0	...	8 12	8 12	8 8	Beerbhoom
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 6	13 4	18 0	180 0	180 0	200 0	8 4	8 4	8 12	Midnapore
...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	13 0	13 0	20 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	8 8	Hooghly.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 8	14 8	20 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	Howrah
																		Central Districts.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 5	12 4	17 8	100 0	120 0	...	8 12	8 12	9 0	24-Pergunnahs
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 4	15 4	26 10	120 0	120 0	...	8 10½	8 10½	8 14	Nuddea.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 4	15 8	20 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Jessore
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 8	17 0	26 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	8 8	Moorshedabad
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 12	10 12	20 0	96 7	98 7	...	7 8	7 8	7 8	Dinagepore
...	...	...	16 0	16 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	27 0	13 0	13 0	20 0	160 0	160 0	140 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	Maldah.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 8	13 8	...	420 0	360 0	...	8 2½	8 0		Rajshahye.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 4	11 4	15 0	107 0	107 0	120 0	7 6	7 6	6 4	Rungpore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 0	13 8	12 0	66 0	65 0	60 0	7 8	7 8	8 0	Bograh.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18 12	18 12	28 4	360 0	200 0	...	8 4	8 4	8 4	Pubna.
...	...	...	8 0	10 0	13 0	16 0	13 0	21 0	7 0	7 8	8 0	200 0	200 0	200 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	Darjeeling.
																		Julpigoree.*
																		Cooch Behar.*
																		Eastern Districts.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	12 0	21 0	80 0	80 0	...	8 8	8 8	8 9	Dacca.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	15 0	20 0	..	..	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Furreedpore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	H 11 to 16	11 to 16	...	160 0	160 0	...	8 9	8 8	8 8	Backergunge.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 8	10 0	17 0	...	...	...	8 4	8 4	8 8	Mymensing.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 8	14 0	17 8	107 0	107 0	..	8 8	8 8	9 8	Sylhet.†
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	11 13	15 4	64 0	64 0	64 0	8 6	8 6	7 4	Cachar.†
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 8	13 0	16 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	8 0	8 0	8 8	Chittagong †
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	14 0	280 0	280 0	...	7 8	7 8	8 0	Noakhally.†
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 11	11 0	18 0	...	...	...	8 8	8 8	8 12	Tipperah.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320 0	320 0	...	7 1	7 4	7 4	Chittagong Hill Tracts †
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	10 0	11 4	I 12 0	12 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Hill Tipperah †

F the highest price of common rice in the interior was 11·4, and lowest price 16 8 per rupee.
G The price in the district may be taken at 16 seers. New rice has been selling at 20 to 22 seers per rupee.
H At sub-divisions and interior.
I Bundles.
* Return not received.
† Return for week ending 22nd November 1873 received after the publication of the last *Gazette*.

PRICES-CURRENT of Food-grains and Salt in the undermentioned

Number.		QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY																	
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			BULRUSH MILLET—CUMBOO, BAJRA.		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
	BEHAR.															
28	Patna ..	14 0	11 8	24 0	17 0	17 0	31 4	11 8	11 8	..	14 0	12 8	21 0	...	..	...
29	Gya ...	10 8	10 0	15 8	15 0	15 0	32 0	8 8	8 8	12 8	10 8	10 8	19 8	..	...	...
30	Shahabad ...	12 0	11 8	15 0	15 8	15 0	28 0	11 8	11 0	12 0	13 0	12 8	19 0	H 17 0	15 0	29 0
31	Tirhoot ...	10 0	10 0	14 0	16 0	18 0	20 0	10 8	9 8	16 0	12 0	9 12	18 0	...	...	...
32	Sarun ..	12 0	12 0	13 8	17 4	17 0	30 0	9 0	8 8	14 0	12 0	11 0	20 0	...	...	...
33	Chumparun ..	11 0	11 0	19 0	20 0	19 0	26 0	9 0	9 0	11 0	13 0	12 0	22 0	...	...	...
34	Monghyr ...	12 6	12 6	18 3	22 0	23 1	36 7	8 4	10 5	12 6	12 6	12 6	19 9	...	...	...
35	Bhaugulpore ...	12 10	12 0	15 2	20 3	20 3	24 0	10 1	10 1	15 2	12 10	13 14	17 11	...	...	...
36	Purneah ...	11 0	10 0	16 0	.	...	40 0	8 0	10 0	18 0	9 5	11 0	25 0	...	...	...
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs...	11 0	11 0	15 0	..	..	..	11 0	11 0	16 0	14 0	13 0	19 0	20 0	20 0	30 0
	ORISSA.															
38	Cuttack† ...	13 2	13 2	17 1	...	...	...	17 1	21 0	21 0	23 10	26 4	38 1	..	..	...
39	Pooree† ..	11 13	15 1	15 12	...	...	...	21 0	23 10	27 9	27 9	34 2	37 12	...	...	...
40	Balasore ...	12 0	12 0	..	.	..	...	14 0	16 0	...	17 0	21 0	...	...	...	...
	CHOTA NAGPORE *South-West Frontier Agency.*															
41	Hazareebaugh ..	10 0	10 0	15 0	...	...	20 0	12 0	10 0	12 0	13 0	14 0	18 0	...	..	...
42	Lohardugga ..	11 0	11 0	11 0	...	...	16 0	10 0	11 0	20 0	16 8	17 0	22 0	..	...	..
43	Singhbhoom† ...	14 0	14 0	18 0	20 0	20 0	...	15 0	14 0	32 0	20 0	18 0	36 0	...	...	...
44	Maunbhoom ..	10 8	11 0	13 0	..	..	24 0	16 0	17 0	24 0	17 0	18 0	26 0	...	...	...
	ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.															
45	Goalpara† ...	12 0	12 0	16 0	...	...	...	11 0	11 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	20 0	...	...	...
46	Kamroop† ...	13 0	13 0	16 0	...	...	...	10 0	11 0	16 0	13 0	13 8	20 0	...	...	...
47	Durrung† ...	8 0	10 0	10 0	..	..	..	10 0	10 0	10 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	...	...	...
48	Nowgong† ...	16 0	16 0	16 0	.	...	...	11 0	11 0	12 0	16 0	16 0	18 0	...	...	...
49	Seebsaugor† ...	...	...	13 0	...	...	16 0	8 0	10 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	20 0	...	...	...
50	Luckimpore† ..	8 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	6 0	6 0	7 0	10 0	13 0	13 8	...	...	...
51	Naga Hills.*															
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills† ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	13 0	10 0	9 0	13 8	...	...	...
53	Garo Hills.*															

H At sub-divisions and interior.
* Return not received.
† Return for week ending 22nd November 1873 received after the publication of the last *Gazette*.

CALCUTTA,
The 2nd December 1873.

districts of Bengal on the 29th November 1873.—(Continued.)

THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire wood			Salt.			Districts.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
																		BEHAR.
...	...	...	..	.	..	17 0	18 0	34 8	17 0	16 0	35 0	140 0	140 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Patna.
H	...	H	16 0	15 8	40 0	14 8	14 8	34 0	13 0	13 8	26 0	160 0	160 0	...	7 0	7 0	7 8	Gya.
16 0	16 0	29 0	14 0	14 0	...	16 0	15 4	30 0	16 0	15 8	29 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 4	8 0	Shahabad.
...	...	...	17 0	18 0	...	17 0	16 8	...	15 0	15 0	29 8	140 0	140 0	...	7 12	7 12	7 9	Tirhoot.
16 0	16 0	31 0	20 0	20 0	...	17 8	16 0	..	16 0	15 0	27 0	180 0	160 0	...	6 0	8 0	6 0	Sarun.
...	...	...	21 0	...	...	20 0	20 0	13 0	16 0	16 8	24 0	...	..		7 4	7 0	7 4	Chumparun.
...	...	...	...	...	...	15 7	16 8	36 7	15 7	15 7	29 6	147 0	147 0	...	7 5	8 4	8 9	Monghyr.
...	...	..	H 20 to 25	19 to 30	34 5½ to 60	17 0	17 11	39 2	15 12	15 12	27 12	176 12	176 12	161 2	8 3	8 3	8 3	Bhaugulpore.
...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	12 0	13 0	22 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	Purneah.
...	...	..	30 0	...	...	20 0	20 0	40 0	15 0	16 0	19 0	480 0	480 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Sonthal Pergunnahs.
																		ORISSA.
...	...	...	14 0	16 0	...	...	...	..	27 9	27 9	26 9	200 0	200 0	...	9 2	9 2	8 0	Cuttack.†
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26 10	26 4	27 9	105 0	105 0	...	9 0	9 0	8 8	Pooree.†
...	.	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	10 0	10 0	...	280 0	280 0	...	7 0	7 0	...	Balasore.
																		CHOTA NAGPORE.
																		South-West Frontier Agency.
...	...	.	19 0	19 0	...	18 0	17 0	30 0	13 0	12 0	21 0	320 0	320 0	...	7 0	7 4	7 0	Hazareebaugh.
...	...	...	...	28 0	...	16 0	24 0	26 0	13 0	12 0	16 0	160 0	168 0	...	6 12	6 12	6 8	Lohardugga.
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	18 0	320 0	320 0	...	4 8	4 0	6 0	Singbhoom †
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40 0	13 0	13 0	18 0	280 0	320 0	320 0	7 8	7 8	7 8	Maunbhoom.
																		ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 0	11 0	8 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 8	8 0	8 0	Goalpara †
...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	10 0	10 0	13 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Kamroop †
...	...	...	.	..	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	200 0	200 0	...	6 8	6 8	6 0	Durrung.†
...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	10 0	...	...	...	6 8	6 8	6 8	Nowgong.†
...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	9 0	8 0	120 0	120 0	...	6 8	6 8	6 0	Seebsaugor.†
...	..	...	...	...	...	4 0	4 0	...	7 0	8 0	9 0	160 0	160 0	...	6 0	6 0	6 0	Luckimpore.†
																		Naga Hills.*
...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	6 4	5 8	8 0	160 0	160 0	...	5 4	5 8	5 0	Khasi and Jynteah Hills †
																		Garo Hills.*

H At sub-division and interior.
* Return not received.
† Return for week ending 22nd November 1873 received after the publication of the last *Gazette*.

Published for general information.

R KNIGHT,
Asst Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal

No. 1610, dated Bhaugulpore, the 1st December 1873.

From—V. T. TAYLOR, Esq., Collector of Bhaugulpore,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith the first fortnightly narrative called for in Government circular No. 80 of the 17th instant.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. Beginning with Soopole and Mudehpoorah sub-divisions, north of the Ganges, where matters are more unfavorable than in the other portions of the district, the sub-divisional officers' reports contain the following remarks.

3. "*Soopole.*—Although prices cannot as yet be said to have reached to famine rates, there is a good of difficulty in procuring *readily* anything beyond a seer or two of any of the principal food-grains; but I attribute this not so much to the fact of small stocks in hand as to uncertainty as to the actual outturn of this season's crop, as well as to a desire to hold out till prices roll over higher."

"*Mudehpoorah.*—Supplies of grain of all kinds in the bazar are scarce; people with money can with the greatest difficulty get edible grain."

4. *Head-Quarters.*—There is no scarcity of supply in any bazar, and in the town I have reason to believe there is an abundance.

Banka.—The sub-divisional officer writes:—"There is now a good supply of food articles in the bazars of Banka, Umurpore, and Belhur, and others. This being the reaping season, they are more than usually to be had, the supplies being ample compared to the outturn produce of eight-annas in the year.

5. The *prices*, however, of grain in Soopole and Mudehpoorah hardly bear out the statements of scarcity and difficulty of procuring edible grains as at Pertabgunge, a large mart in the Soopole sub-division. Rice (coarse) is said to be selling at 15 or 16 seers the rupee (old rice); while the prices current at Bheemnuggur, "a mart of not much importance, are somewhat lower." *New* rice at the Peepra Bazar is selling at 16 seers, though as yet new rice has only been brought to market in small quantities. "Murwa is obtainable at half a maund per rupee." At Soopole itself murwa sells at the same rate, and rice 13 to 14 seers, notwithstanding the reported fact that it is only obtainable in small quantities.

6. *Mudehpoorah.*—The sub-divisional officer writes:—"Murwa is, if anything, more easily procurable than rice. This is selling at about 22 seers per rupee, while the coarsest rice is selling at about 13 seers."

7. Mr. Barnfather, who is working between the two sub-divisions west of Mudehpoorah, reports that where he is there was no difficulty in procuring supplies and old rice was selling at about 13 seers per rupee, and he was glad to say a shopkeeper had brought rice, salt, &c., on to the works for sale.

8. Rice is selling at head-quarters now at 12 seers 10 chuttacks, wheat at the same rate, and Indian-corn at 17 seers; these though dear are not at famine prices. The prices at Colgong range about the same.

9. At *Banka*, Barahat, Umurpore, Kholhat, Kutooria, Kurma, and Belhur, old rice is selling at prices varying from 12½ seers at Koorma to 14 at Banka per rupee, while the new varies from 15 at Koorma to 17½ at Banka; paddy varies from 25 to 32½, murwa 22 per rupee, wheat 12 to 14, and Indian-corn 16 at Koorma to 20 at Banka.

10. A comparative statement given below shows approximately the difference in prices of some of the food-grains, as far as can be ascertained, *now* and at the corresponding period of 1865, *i.e.*, the month of November :—

	Rice, 1st sort		Rice, common		Murwa.		Indian-corn.		Wheat.		
	1865	1873	1865	1873	1865.	1873.	1865	1873	1865.	1873	
	S. C	S. C	S. C	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S C.	S. C.	S. C.	S C.	
Soopole	10 1½	12 0	11 0¼	13 0	25 0	20 0	...	..	.	12 0	These sub-divisions were *one* in 1865 Indian-corn is hardly known in these parts, wheat is chiefly grown for exportation, and is rarely consumed
Mudehpoora ...	10 1½	13 8	11 0¼	13 8	25 0	25 0		...	...	10 0	
Head-Quarters	10 0	10 0	11 0¾ old	12 10 old	...	.	16 0	17 0	15 2	12 10	
Banka		13 0	12 8 new 18 14	14 0 new 17 8		22 0	15 12	20 0	..	13 0	

11. Wheat is chiefly grown for exportation, and is but little consumed in the district; Indian-corn is hardly known north of the Ganges though largely consumed in the south of the district In 1865 Mudehpoorah and Soopole were one and not two sub-divisions and only one price current was then submitted, probably an average of the different marts. From the satements given in the preceding paragraph it will be seen that rice is actually though but to a small degree cheaper now than in November 1865.

Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in store in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.

12. This is so difficult a question to deal with that I am loathe to record officially the quantities *said* to have been ascertained up to date or *believed* to be up to date in hand. I must state at the outset that the figures are not reliable, at any rate I don't believe in them myself; any deliberate enquiry on this matter brings forth from ryots bond protestations that they have not a grain and are *quite unable to pay their rents.* This was the constant recurring cry even from men who were clearly well-to-do, well-off, and with ample provision for themselves and families for some time to come. What appears to me from my personal observation to be uppermost in the minds of the ryots is not that they are in any danger of starvation or even distress, but that they cannot pay their rents. Since the withdrawal of rent suits from the revenue courts, I have very strongly pointed out the oppression practised on the ryots of the *Banka* sub-division, and for the past two years the subject has been referred to the High Court, and now in difficulties like the present where ryots will most undoubtedly if they can withhold payment of rents, there is no doubt that the *mustagirs* will take the law into their own hands and get hold of the crops. I have seriously warned one man who has gone to his estate and who has already begun the old trick of not allowing the rice crop to be cut by the ryot. I have mentioned this to show how difficult it will be to ascertain the quantity of grain any *ryot* has: he pleads abject poverty and inability to pay rent under any circumstances. Mahajuns, again, who may easily have 10,000 maunds of grain will declare they have but 1,000 if that.

13. Again, the people themselves are very apt to over-estimâte in times like these, the stocks in the hands of mahajuns and traders; while the mahajuns themselves work in the other direction. With exportation daily going on to an unascertainable extent, the returns of one week are useless for the next. The Mudehpoorah sub-divisional officer records, from his personal enquiry, that in his sub-division, in most cases, the owners have under-stated the stores, even to the extent of one-half; and it is doubtful whether the time and trouble spent in endeavouring to ascertain the amount of grain in hand—enquiries which have *constantly* to be made, owing to the continual change going on—is time and trouble satisfactorily spent, when one knows how, I may say, completely unreliable the results really are. The information given for the town is absurd,

when the imports of rice for the month at the station are known to exceed the whole quantities given :—

	Rice.	Wheat.	Barley.	Murwa.	Kullye.	Gram.	Miscellaneous.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds
				SOOPOLE.			
	54,140	1,800	.....	40,133	.....	.....	26,684
				MUDEHPOORAH			
	10,898	897	77	28,096	80	1,113	15,250
				SUDDER.			
	8,060	45,150	705	5	3,445	821	14,810
				BANKA.			
Zemindars' and mahajuns'	6,055	380	65	930	65	144	1,437
Ryots,' for home consumption	1,675	25	.....	....	.....	.....	69
Ryots,' which is available for export ..	. .	. ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	7,730	405	65	930	65	144	1,506
Grand Total	86,828	47,252	847	69,164	3,590	2,078	58,250

The new form, as prescribed by the Commissioner, has not been as yet filled up for Sudder, Mudehpoorah and Soopole ; but only the totals are given as received from the sub-divisional officer under the old form.

14. *Rainfall (if any).*—There has been no rain for a long time. There have been many clouds during the week since the 26th (on which day a slight shock of earthquake was felt), which have only now cleared off. Rain of course would be of no use to the rice crop which is now ripening fast and is being reaped. It is impossible now to state what outturn may be anticipated. The rubbee still promises well in the head-quarters sub-division, and I am glad to be able to report that in the other three sub-divisions wheat has been sown to a larger extent than usual, wells having been dug, and the fields irrigated ; where the land has been watered the crops are reported as promising ; though rain now would of course greatly improve the rubbee crops generally, yet I believe them to be perfectly safe as far as want of rain is concerned up to the middle of February.

15. *Condition of the people.*—The condition of the people, so far taking them altogether, is good. Just at present the poor classes are engaged in reaping the rice crop, and they will be so engaged for some time longer. The labouring classes south of Soopole and west of Mudehpoorah will find employment on roads already started, and by the time the real pressure is anticipated, all the roads in the north will be staked out and set going. It is in this portion where distress must be, I believe, felt, but not before the end of February, a considerable number of persons have been attracted to the road from Soopole to Bhootea *vid* Bungaon already, but as yet Mr. Barnfather reports there is no difficulty in supplying food. Similarly there will not be any distress in the head-quarters sub-division before March unless slightly south of Colgong and Ghoga, and any distress there can be immediately provided for. In the Banka sub-division there will probably be a little distress near Dhooria outpost, and in the neighbourhood of Kutooria thannah, but provision has been made (as regards road work (to meet this). The general health of the district has been never known to be so satisfactory ; no cholera, small-pox, or fever, and I trust this will continue. I look forward to the end of February and March, and the subsequent

months till the new crops are ready for cutting with much anxiety, but I hope to have every possible measure of relief ready by the end of February with all grain stored. There have not been any grain thefts or robberies to speak of; one or two of the former have been reported as having occurred in Soopole sub-division, but nothing apparently beyond the usual thefts that occur. Nine cases from starvation were reported in the Soopole sub-division near Bungaon, but on careful enquiry starvation had nothing to do with it, six were diseased persons who might have died at any time; in the house of one a large quantity of grain was found, and two were of the lowest classes of labourers who had been ill with fever for a long time, and died possibly from deficient care.

B.—Relief Works.

16. I regret that information on this head has been delayed, and it cannot be given. The road from Milki to Gonowli north of the Ganges No. 5 project map previously submitted by the Commissioner, has been put in hand, but it only as yet gives employment to 200 to 300 labourers, who were paid by the piece; no difficulty in procuring food; laborers chiefly from the neighbouring villages; tools supplied by the District Engineer when the labourers possess none of their own.

17. Labourers are employed on the Mudehpoorah road (No. 1) from the 18th to 44th mile, but I have not been furnished with the number of men employed or the rate of wages, but full information will be forthcoming for the next Narrative.

18. Mr. Smith, the Deputy Collector of Soopole, has commenced marking out the road from Soopole, to Peepra (No. 15), and it will be completed before it is necessary to open the work.

19. Mr. Barnfather, District Engineer, has been marking out and staking the road from Soopole (Pursurma) to Bhootea *viâ* Bungaon (No. 19), and the first portion of it, seven miles, has been opened. Mr. Barnfather reports 1,000 men daily and gladly at work. Salesmen have voluntarily come to the road to supply the the persons employed on it. At present daily payments are made at the rate of two annas each. A good supply of kodalies is forthcoming, and all labourers, when possible, bring their own tools. The road from bungaon to Patorighat, No. 21, will be marked out next and will be ready as soon as required. The road No. 10, Singhessur to Pertabgunge, requires no staking out as the *old* track still exists, and the road to be made will follow that.

20. Roads Nos. 8 and 23 are in hand, but the number of workmen upon them has not been reported. Provisions are procurable at *Sookhasun*, and the labourers are residents of the neighbouring villages.

21. From 8th to 18th mile of Mudehpoorah is ready to be started at a moment's notice, very heavy earthwork being required as soon as it appears necessary.

22. *South of the Ganges* the road from Pointee to Barahaut is being marked out *No.* 16, and the 9 miles out of the 16 from Banka to Kutooria, No. 26; and the work is progressing,

C.—Transport of Food.

23. I find that during the month of November about 21,500 maunds (exclusive of Government grain) were imported by rail to the Bhaugulpore railway station against about 21,700 exported. Of the imports 14,396 maunds were rice; of the exports 6,580 were wheat and 2,542 only rice. Wheat is still being exported largely. The means of transport are, I think, sufficient, carts (the chief means of transport) being numerous. All Government rice arriving at the railway station is sent across the river Ganges in boats, whence it is taken north by carts; in time I expect to have a regular system of relays or changes of carts, when the rice will be moved up with all despatch. The next Narrative will give the quantity of rice imported, the quantity sent across the river, the store golah to which it is to be taken, and the quantity actually *en route*. The transport of grain has only just commenced, and no block has as yet been experienced. There are no special

transport trains; the ordinary carriage of the district is availed of, and the carts paid either by day at the market rate, or at contract rates of so much per maund carried; and I believe many more carts will soon be brought forward to be employed.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Work.

24. The following places have been selected for the present as the places of storage, and, as already reported, marked on the map previously submitted with a yellow flag:—

Name of road	Number on map	Place of storage and letter on map	Amount to be stored
North of Ganges			
Milki to Gounouli ...	5	Permeshapore (A)	1,000 mds rice
Mudehpoorah road, from 8th to 17th mile	1	Phoolout (B) . ..	5,000 mds rice 1,000 mds Indian-corn 1 500 mds gram.
Ditto from 18th to 44th „	1	Mudehpoorah (C) .	8,000 mds rice
Singhesur to Nathpoor	10	Peepra (D)	1,500 mds. rice
Pertabgunge to Beerpoor	11	Buloobazar (E)	1,000 mds rice
Soopole to Peepra . .	15	Soopole (F) ..	20,000 mds. rice 500 mds gram 500 mds Indian-corn
Ditto to Bhootia .	19		
Ditto to do .. .	19	Bungaon (G)	15 000 mds rice 1 000 mds. Indian-corn.
Bungaon to Potorighat	21	Sonebursa (H)	5,000 mds rice 500 mds. gram
South of Ganges			
Banka to Kutooria	26	Kutooria (I) .	2,500 mds Indian-corn 2,500 mds gram
Kutooria to Chundun	28		
Ditto to Simultulla .	27		

25. Golahs will have to be erected at Phoolout, Mudehpoorah, Peepra, Bhuloora Bazar, and Kutooria, and some at Bungaon. Arrangements can be made at Permeshapore (A) for the quantity required to be stored, and thanks to the liberality of Baboo Hurbullab Narain Singh, golahs for storing the required amount at Sonebursa will be placed at my dispoasl. Mr. Christian of Bungaon has also kindly placed all his granaries there at my service, and but little extra accommodation will be required. Mr. Hennessy, of Narainpore, has kindly placed a half way house at Kashnugger at my disposal, where grain can be safely kept to enable carts to come back to the Ganges for more rice, and the sub-divisional carts will remove it from Kashnugger. Mr. Christian of Putturghat and Mr. Hennessy are coming forward in a most praiseworthy manner in supplying carts for carriage of the grain.

26. There being no necessity to spend a pice more than it is possible to avoid, no arrangements are as yet made for the administration of storage houses. The first thing is to get the quantity forcea h golah stored as soon as possible, and the police will guard the golahs. Before the pinch comes, and it is necessary to open the golahs for use, proper persons will be appointed to have charge of them. Entertaining men for this purpose now would be a waste of money.

27. The amount of food-grain actually received is rice 16,550 maunds and Indian-corn 5,000 maunds. The whole of the former has been sent across the river, and 3,402 maunds are actually on the way in 260 carts towards Soopole and Mudehpoorah. Of the latter, 2,500 maunds have been sent to Simultullah railway station (Chord Line) 10 miles distant from Katoria, its ultimate destination, and 2,000 maunds have been sent across the river, and 500 maunds are now crossing. No grain is now waiting transport at the railway station; more is expected however to-day. Empty bags will be returned as soon as the grain is properly stored, a sufficient number being kept back for internal transport, should such become necessary.

28. The amount promised for the district is not overmuch, should any very great distress arise and consequent relief measures become necessary. The Commissioner has, I believe, asked that the stock be raised to a lakh of

maunds, a precaution which appears prudent. The balance can be held in reserve or placed at one or two other selected places, as everything should be ready by the end of February, when as stated above, the commencement of distress may unfortunately be anticipated.

Advances to private parties.

29. No advances for purchase and storage of grain have been applied for or granted to private persons or the municipality. No advances to private parties have been made for land improvements, though the offer of Government has been and is being made known throughout the district.

F.—Charitable Relief.

30. No actual relief operations have been commenced, nor are any necessary at present.

31. Each sub-divisional officer has been supplied with a copy of the map of his sub-division, together with full instructions to carefully consider and report the sites of relief centres for the three degrees of famine as directed in the Government circular. These will all be ready before the necessity for putting the relief work into operation arises.

G.—Financial results of the week.

32. The only sums as yet advanced and known to have been expended is given below. The District Engineer has not yet furnished me with details of expenditure on roads. All relief work is to be considered as road-cess work, and I have therefore only shown the amount advanced under the Commissioner's order, and how I have made use of the same :—

Expenditure during the period under report.

	Rs.	A.	P.
On disbursements to the District Engineer for relief works ...	8,000	0	0
Ditto to Deputy Collector of Mudchpoorah for relief works	1,000	0	0
Total ...	9,000	0	0

On disbursements to officers in charge of transport arrangements Rs. 1,456-4, viz :—

Through Nazir Collectorate	856	4	0
,, Deputy Collector of Banka	100	0	0
,, Ditto of Mudchpoorah	250	0	0
,, Ditto of Soopole	250	0	0
Total ...	1,456	4	0

No. 3649.

FROM THE OFFG. SECY. TO THE GOVT OF BENGAL,

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

IN THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, *dated* 26*th* *November* / *issued* *November* 1873

SCARCITY AND RELIEF

SIR,

WITH reference to your endorsement No. 3264, dated 25th November, on the telegram from the Chief Commissioner of Burmah regarding the number of emigrants he would take, I am to submit copies of the papers marginally noted.

Letter to Landholders' Association, Calcutta and Debrooghur, No. 3517, dated the 19th November 1873

Letter to Chief Commissioner of Burmah, No. 3504, dated the 19th November 1873.

Letter from Commissioner of Patna with enclosure, No. 7F, dated 21st November

Letter to Commissioner of Patna, No. 3647, of to-day's date.

2. It will be seen that the Chief Commissioner is ready to contribute only five rupees towards the cost of transporting each able-bodied working man to Burmah. This proposal is, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, wholly inadequate; the expense would be very much larger, and if British Burmah is to be populated, at least a fair share of the expense should be debited to that province. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that if the people who now go to Burmah are to be permanent immigrants, some of them at any rate must take their families. He fears that the cost of each emigrant from the distressed districts down to Calcutta will be at least five rupees a head; and he is inquiring as to the cost of sending emigrants by mail steamer, or on board the Government vessel, the *Cæzarowitch*, which could bring back a return cargo of rice from Rangoon. A further report shall be made as soon as the probable cost of each emigrant to Rangoon is more exactly ascertained. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to know the views of the Government of India upon the subject, and whether His Excellency the Viceroy in Council would be willing to incur, in behalf of each emigrant, a charge which may amount to, say, Rs. 20 or 25 per head.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

W. E. B.

No. 3517.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE LANDHOLDERS ASSOCIATIONS OF CALCUTTA AND

DEBROOGURH.

Calcutta, the 19th November, 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

I AM directed to invite your attention to the marginal extract from the orders issued by the Government of India regarding the impending scarcity of food in Bengal.

PARA. 30 It is to be hoped that, in the populous tracts visited or threatened by distress, unemployed laborers may emigrate to places where food is in comparative plenty, where a special demand exists for their labor, where culturable waste abounds, such as the tea districts, the Doars, the provinces of Assam and of British Burmah If it be found possible for the Government to facilitate such emigration, directly or indirectly, the Governor-General will be glad to receive any suggestions which the Lieutenant-Governor may be able to make

2. The Lieutenant-Governor would ask your Association to favor the Government with any suggestions as to the best mode of promoting immigration to the districts during this exceptional season, and as to the terms on which tea planters may be willing to bear part of the cost of importing immigrants and agree to receive laborers. The Lieutenant-Governor's present view is that immigrants, who may be assisted by Government during the present year, should not be expected to enter into an agreement for more than 12 months from the date of their arrival in the tea districts. At the end of that period they should be allowed to look about them, and make up their minds whether they will stay in the tea districts either as tea coolies, or as ryots on the large surplus of culturable lands which exists in those districts.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is unable to say at what cost Government Agents may be able to march emigrants across to Dhoobree if they come from North Behar, or to send them by railway and steamer if they come from Western Bengal. But he fears that the cost could not be under 15 to 30 or 40 rupees a head according as they go to near or distant district; and he would wish to know whether tea planters would find it worth while to pay one half of the cost of carrying emigrants up to a limit of Rs. 10 per head, if they get one year's agreement from each Government emigrant. Further, up to what limit would the planters of each labor district care to take coolies at these terms.

Seebsaugor.	Cachar.
Lukhimpore.	Nowgong.
Durrung.	

4. Copies of this letter will be forwarded to the Commissioners of Assam and Dacca, and to the Deputy Commissioners of the five districts above named for expression of opinion. The Deputy Commissioners will be asked to invite a certain number of representative planters in these districts either to meet and discuss the matter, or to communicate respectively their opinions and suggestions to Government in this department. The Lieutenant-Governor does not mention Darjeeling as a tea district to be operated upon under these orders, as the Labor Act does not apply to the Darjeeling district, and that district is well within reach of voluntary emigration.

5. As any course of action that may be adopted must be decided upon by the 15th January at latest, I am to ask that replies to this letter may be furnished by the end of December next.

6. It may be well to mention that the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah has suggested that relief funds might very usefully be expended in sending down emigrants to Burmah, where labor is always much in demand, where families might be put down in agricultural settlements. The Chief Commissioner considers that perhaps twenty or thirty thousand immigrants could be readily absorbed into British Burmah in a single season.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3518.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioners of Assam and Dacca, and to the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar, Durrung, Nowgong, Seebsaugor and Lukhimpore, whose special attention is called to paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 19th November, 1873.

No. 3504.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL
IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE SECY. TO THE CHIEF COMMR. OF BRITISH BURMAH.

Calcutta, the 19th November, 1873.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

WITH reference to the Chief Commissioner's telegram of the 14th current to His Excellency the Viceroy, I am directed to forward copy of a letter which the Lieutenant-Governor has caused to be issued to representatives of the tea planting interest on the subject of promoting emigration from Bengal and Behar during the coming season of distress.

2. I am to enquire whether employers of labor, or any of the Government departments of British Burmah would be disposed to bear a share (up to say Rs. 10 a head) in the cost of conveying emigrants from Bengal to Burmah. I am further to enquire whether able-bodied single men (as suggested in the Hon'ble Mr. Eden's telegram), or families, would be the most acceptable immigrants to Burmah.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

A. St. L. B.

No. 7F, dated Bankipore, the 21st November 1873.

From—S. C. Bayley, Esq., Commissioner of Patna,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, the accompanying copy of a letter, No. 230 of the 18th instant, from the Collector and Magistrate of Sarun, reporting that numbers of people who had lately emigrated from his district are returning owing to their inability to pay for the high price of food on the route. The matter is a serious one, but it is too late now to do much to remedy it. As the ordinary season for emigrating is passing by, I have directed that food depôts be laid in along the line of route, and be sold to emigrants at cost price. The officers in charge of the works under Mr. Stevens, Executive Engineer, Raj Durbhangah, might be expected to do this. I would urge the speedy issue of the orders contemplated in regard to facilitating emigration to Assam, &c.

No 230, dated Chupiah, the 18th November 1873.

From—J. S. Drummond, Esq., Offg. Collector and Magistrate of Sarun,
To—The Commissioner of Patna.

I have the honor to report that I have been informed that numbers of people who had lately emigrated from this district, intending to proceed to Cooch Behar and Assam, are now returning owing to their inability to pay their expenses in consequence of the high price of food prevailing on the route. I was told by a planter that 300 of such persons had so returned on his own Dehat alone.

2. As it seems very desirable that measures should be taken to facilitate emigration as much as possible, I beg to report the circumstance with a view to such action as the Government may think proper to take in the matter.

No. 3647.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATNA.

Calcutta, the 26th November 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

WITH reference to the correspondence published in to-day's (26th November) *Calcutta Gazette* regarding the promotion of emigration from the distressed districts, I am directed to enquire whether you and your Magistrates could find any considerable number of men, or of families, in your division who would emigrate to British Burmah.

2. The Chief Commissioner of British Burmah has intimated that he can employ six thousand able-bodied men on public works, at Rs. 9 a month, for six months; that he can after that give them land to settle upon, and that he can contribute towards the cost of their transport.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes you to ascertain whether single men or families from Sarun or elsewhere would be likely to accept these terms. They will, you observe, be bound to work on public works for six months only, and then will have open to them one of the dearest labour markets of British India, where the wages of an ordinary coolie are generally Rs. 10 a month and upwards, and where food is in ordinary years very cheap. The Lieutenant-Governor apprehends that even if men and families are willing to go, some organization—something like the coolie sirdar system—would be required for collecting and managing the emigrants; and he would be willing, if you found it necessary, to consider any proposal you might make for allowing any coolie sirdar who produced one hundred emigrants ready to go to Burmah eight annas per emigrant. Intending emigrants would have to be examined by the Civil Surgeon, so that very weakly men or men suffering from disease should not be sent. One blanket would have to be given to each emigrant.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor has no authority as yet to spend public money on thus promoting emigration to Burmah; and each emigrant will certainly cost a considerable sum to transport. The journey by boat and rail to Calcutta from Sarun and the blanket will be at least five rupees. Meanwhile, and until the orders of the Government of India can be received, I am to ask you to inquire and report how far the people are willing to emigrate to Burmah; what organization and what expense you would recommend in Behar to promote such emigration.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

W. E. B.

No. 3908.

FROM THE OFFG. SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL
IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA
IN THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, dated 12th December / issued December 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3805, dated the 5th December 1873, I am directed to forward herewith two copies of the Fifth Special Narrative (with appendices and enclosures enumerated below) of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal from 6th to 12th December 1873 inclusive.

2. Copies have been despatched by this day's mail to His Grace the Secretary of State for India.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES.

A.—Note on the Movement of Food-grains.

B.—Letter No. 3550, dated 6th December 1873, from the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, and Bengal Government No. 3889, dated 11th December 1873, on the subject of the supply of grain before the end of January. See Appendix B of the last Narrative.

Also Bengal Government No. 3834, dated 6th December 1873, to Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, Rajshahye, and others, containing instructions regarding the distribution of the supply of grain.

C.—Bengal Government letter No. 3888, dated the 11th December 1873, containing the Lieutenant-Governor's proposals regarding civil establishments to be entertained.

D.—Statement showing the amount of Government rice despatched from Calcutta into the interior.

ENCLOSURES

1.—Return of Rain, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops for week ending 6th December.

2.—Return of Prices-current for week ending 6th December.

3.—Bengal Government letter No. 53PS, dated 6th December 1873, to address of Mr. A. Colvin, C.S., Allahabad, containing orders for purchase of grain.

4.—Fortnightly Narratives of Scarcity and Relief affairs under Circular No. 80 of the 17th November, for the fortnight ending 29th November, from the Patna Division, with the Resolution of Government thereon.

5.—Fortnightly Narratives of Scarcity and Relief affairs under Circular No. 80 of the 17th November, for the fortnight ending 29th November, from the Bhaugulpore Division, with the Resolution of Government thereon.

6.—Fortnightly Narratives of Scarcity and Relief affairs under Circular No. 80 of the 17th November, for the fortnight ending 29th November from the Rajshahye Division, with the Resolution of Government thereon.

7.—Extract from the Commissioner's Fortnightly Narrative for the Rajshahye Division

8.—Special report by Mr. LeF Robinson, Relief Commissioner for the Rajshahye Division, regarding the state of the country in Dinagepore.

SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

No. 3907.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, dated 12th December / issued December 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3806, dated the 5th December 1873, I am directed to forward herewith three copies of the Fifth Special Narrative (with appendices and enclosures enumerated below) of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal from 6th to 12th December 1873 inclusive.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES.

A.—Note on the Movement of Food-grains.

B.—Letter No. 3550, dated 6th December 1873, from the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, and Bengal Government No. 3889, dated 11th December 1873, on the subject of the supply of grain before the end of January. See Appendix B of the last Narrative.

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C.—Bengal Government letter No. 3888, dated the 11th December 1873, containing the Lieutenant-Governor's proposals regarding civil establishments to be entertained.

D.—Statement showing the amount of Government rice despatched from Calcutta into the interior.

ENCLOSURES.

1.—Return of Rain, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops for week ending 6th December.

2.—Return of Prices-current for week ending 6th December.

3.—Bengal Government letter No. 5318, dated 6th December 1873, to address of Mr. A. Colvin, C.S., Allahabad, containing orders for purchase of grain.

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6.—Fortnightly Narratives of Scarcity and Relief affairs under Circular No. 80 of the 17th November, for the fortnight ending 29th November from the Rajshahye Division, with the Resolution of Government thereon.

7.—Extract from the Commissioner's Fortnightly Narrative for the Rajshahye Division.

8.—Special report by Mr. LeF. Robinson, Relief Commissioner for the Rajshahye Division, regarding the state of the country in Dinagepore.

Fifth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873, from 6th December to 12th December.

1. It was noted in the last Narrative that in some districts the outturn of the late rains rice crop had proved to be better than had been estimated by the local officers. Further information shows that this comparatively favorable result of the harvest is more general than at date of the last Narrative was certainly known, in spite of the blight and the plague of insects induced by the cloudy weather. In the Dacca, Chittagong, and Orissa Divisions, the yield will probably be fully up to what was anticipated in paragraph 4 of the Narrative of the 21st November. In certain districts of Western Bengal the outturn of late rice may even exceed that estimate. In the distressed districts no improvement is reported now that the commencement of the harvest enables the local officers to give a more accurate opinion.

As regards the spring crops, there is little to report. Further information confirms what was stated in the last Narrative, that the area laid down in these crops is by no means so small as was at first supposed. In some parts of Purneah it is stated half as much again as in ordinary years is planted with these crops; while in Sarun and some other districts, on the other hand, some of the usual spring crop lands are unsown. Generally in Behar these crops, where sown, seem to have germinated fairly well, and are holding out against the drought with characteristic vitality. This, however, cannot last very much longer without rain. In Bengal the prospect of the cold weather crops is still very bad. The Weekly Rainfall, Weather, State and Prospect of Crops Return bringing our information down to December 6th and to December 9th for some districts* is enclosed herewith. Since that date no change in the prospect has taken place till the partial rainfall of the 11th, which will be noticed below.

* Enclosure 1.

2. The weather has become colder, but it is still strange. The dewy nights and foggy mornings usual at this time of year are absent. The sky has remained cloudy, sometimes clearing, but the clouds returning again and again till at last a little rain has fallen in the districts about Calcutta. The Meteorological Reporter writes: "During the past week the weather has been of the same character as in the two or three previous weeks; north-easterly winds, a good deal of cloud, a moderate temperature, and a steady pressure, varying but little. During the last day or two there has been more cloud than before, and rain is now (morning of 11th) falling steadily." The rain referred to produced up to the evening of the 11th ½ an inch at Calcutta and Hooghly, and 1·38 inches at Burdwan. Unhappily, however, the last telegraphic reports give no news of rain in Behar, where it is most wanted. As regards the rain which has fallen in this neighbourhood, the Collector of Hooghly says—'Bad for the rice; good for the cold weather crops:' while the Deputy Collector of Burdwan broadly says—"Will do more harm than good." No doubt in the purely rice districts rain at this critical harvest time is a doubtful benefit, but it may be hoped that this report is more gloomy than the fact. To-day the weather still looks as if there might be more rain.

3. The fall in prices expected with the harvest of the rice has not been very marked. In Calcutta as well as in the interior the tendency is to a fall, but the quotations are not on the whole much lower than they were last week. The difficulty of giving in a tabular statement a correct idea of the prices current in the various districts has been before commented on. In the distressed districts prices are somewhat higher in the interior of the districts than the quotation given in the return. In the other districts the reverse of this is the case. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore writes that while in the Monghyr bazar the price of common rice has never risen above 12 seers to the rupee, a gentleman travelling in the interior has been paying at the rate of 10 seers for the same grain. On the other hand, the Collector of Nuddea says that the coarsest rice may be obtained at 13¼ seers per rupee throughout his district, while his return of prices current gives 12¼ seers. So in parts of 24-Pergunnahs 18 seers is obtainable, and the laborers on the Kana Nuddee, on the borders of Hooghly and Burdwan, get 16 seers in the neighbouring bazar. Comparing present prices with the average of all December 1865, we find they are higher now than they were then in Northern Bengal, and also slightly higher in Behar. In other parts they are, on the whole, neither higher nor lower than they were in December 1865.

4. The usual note on the movement of food-grains is appended.* It may be well here to note that in spite of the high prices ruling in the Calcutta market, 24,950 tons of freight lying in the river was, on the 8th December, under contract for the export of rice to various ports. It is expected that the high prices will not prevent the export of a further quantity of 30,000 tons to the Persian Gulf.

* Appendix A.

5. It was noted at paragraph 4 of the last narrative that the Government of India had called for an estimate of the probable amount of grain required for local purposes, and that in reply to this call the Lieutenant-Governor had asked that a total of 1,875,000 maunds of food-grains might be purchased and stored before the 31st January. The Government of India, while thinking that ⅔rds of a seer per diem per head, inclusive of women and children, is rather a large famine allowance, have however sanctioned the requisition on the ground that it is well to leave some margin. The Lieutenant-Governor has taken the opportunity to explain that in asking to have a three months' supply for 5 per cent. of the population in hand by the end of January, his view was that with such a supply the Government would be in a position to take further necessary action in January in case the spring crops fail or the area of scarcity extends.

In letter No. 3834, dated December 6th, the Lieutenant-Governor instructs the Commissioners of distressed divisions and other officers as to the distribution of the food-supply sanctioned by the Government of India. Copies of this correspondence are annexed in Appendix.*

* Appendix B.

Some difficulty had arisen regarding the procedure to be followed in making purchases of grain in the North-West Provinces through the officer nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor of those provinces for the purpose. This difficulty has now been arranged, and in letter No. 531PS, dated 6th December 1873, the officer nominated (Mr. A. Colvin) has been fully advised regarding the purchases he is to make.

The Lieutenant-Governor's proposals regarding extra civil establishments to be entertained for work in connection with scarcity and relief have been submitted to the Government of India in letter No. 3888, dated 11th December, copy of which is enclosed.*

* Appendix C.

6. The Government of India having been pleased, as above stated, to approve the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal, that 18,75,000 maunds of Government grain should be provided by the 31st January, the Lieutenant-Governor has made arrangements for completing the share of that amount (about one-half the whole) which has to be provided from Bengal and the North-Western Provinces.

Since the despatch of last Narrative it has been ascertained that the arrangements made by the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore for grain from the North-Western Provinces will secure the delivery in those divisions of about 2,00,000 maunds of grain by the 31st January next. There remains, according to the estimate sanctioned by the Government of India, 1,50,000 maunds to be obtained from the North-Western Provinces, and the Lieutenant-Governor has indented on Mr. A. Colvin, the officer who has been placed at his disposal for the purpose by the Government of those provinces, for the purchase of this amount, asking that one-third may be wheat, one-third barley, and one-third jowaree (*holcus sorghum*). This letter is enclosed.* The Lieutenant-Governor has put limits† of price, beyond which Mr. Colvin is not to go, but has expressed his hope that the grain may be got below the limit fixed. Out of the 4,00,000 maunds to be provided from Calcutta and the eastern districts, about 1,60,000 maunds had already been bought before the despatch of last Narrative. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes to arrange for getting 1,00,000 maunds from Eastern Bengal; and he has issued an invitation calling for tenders for the delivery of 1,50,000 maunds in Calcutta. All this grain is to be delivered at different dates before the end of January, and most of it will, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes, be by that time actually stored in or in transit to the interior of the distressed districts. If the Government of India should be able to supply the additional 24,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea in time, we may hope that the whole amount required (18,75,000 maunds) will be in our possession before the end of January.

	Mds.	Mds.
The Government of India have already ordered from beyond sea, deliverable in January, 10,000 tons, or say ..		270,000
The Government of Bengal hopes to have by the end of January—		
From Calcutta and the eastern districts	400,000	
" Orissa	200,000	
" the North-Western Provinces ..	350,000	
		950,000
Balance to be provided		655,000
Total		1,875,000

* Enclosure 3.

† For wheat, Rs. 3-12 per maund; for barley Rs. 3-4 per maund; and for jowaree, Rs. 3-0 per maund.

7. In Appendix D is shown the total amount of Government grain sent up-country up to the present date. It will be seen that 181,500 maunds have been despatched upwards. All arrivals of rice are despatched promptly as they come; the only delay has been in the despatches of certain quantities of Calcutta rice which is shut up in city store-houses, and can only be got out gradually. All rice that comes in ships is unloaded and sent off without any delay whatever, and without causing, up to the present date, any block on the East Indian Railway, or any inconvenience to private traders. Messrs. Bird and Company, the landing and forwarding agents, who contracted to do the loading and unloading work at very reasonable rates, have great command of labour, and have done the work hitherto right well.

A quantity of grain from up-country has also been received by the Commissioner of Patna, but the exact account of these receipts has not yet reached this Government.

8. Regarding the progress made in forwarding grain from the railway stations to the interior, our information is not quite complete. But taking the places to which Calcutta grain has been forwarded in the order given in Appendix D, we may say that the grain from Patna Ghât is being sent off in native boats to Gobindgunge on the Gunduck embankment and to Revelgunge for distribution in the Sarun district nearly as fast as it arrives; from Barh it is under despatch by carts from the opposite side of the Ganges to Seetamarhee in the north of Tirhoot. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore reports that there is no delay in forwarding to Soopole, in the north of his district, all the grain sent to Bhaugulpore. The Caragolah and Sahebgunge rice has all gone forward for storage at Dengraghât and Kudba in Purneah. The Lukieserai consignments have already reached their destination in the south of the Monghyr district. The Rajmehal consignments laden on 500 carts are on the way to the Northern Bengal Railway,

and Major Lindsay, the Superintending Engineer, reports to-day that some of it has already reached Parbuttipore, the place of storage. From Kooshtea the Government steamer and flats are carrying away all rice arrivals regularly to Godagaree at the mouth of the Mahanuddee. The rice from Goalundo is going forward less rapidly; it has to take a long journey by boat in more or less shallow rivers and channels. The steamer *Flame*, which went up as a pioneer, has not yet come back; boats of the requisite draught are collected but slowly. Still the rice is moving on gradually, and the Commissioner (Mr. Molony) expects that its despatch will soon be expedited. From all sides except Goalundo the local officers universally report that the carriage of the country suffices to carry all the Government and all the private grain importations. The carriage facilities of the districts will, however, soon be tested much more severely, and the Lieutenant-Governor will anxiously await the results of such testing.

9. Major Lindsay, Superintending Engineer of the Northern Bengal Railway, has to-day come to Calcutta to lay his plans and estimates before the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India. He reports that engineers have been distributed along the line from Durwanee in the north of the Rungpore district down to the swampy lands in the Rajshahye district; work is being absolutely begun, and it is arranged that all the able-bodied Boona coolies (the "navvies" of this part of India) now at work on local roads should be transferred to the railway works, while the local roads can be kept for the destitute poor of the districts. As yet there is no great demand for employment. Major Lindsay has set aside three of his engineers to undertake (from local relief funds) feeder roads to the railway stations on the middle length of his line; two of these roads have actually been begun. It is hoped that the Government of India may grant permission for Major Lindsay to begin making and burning bricks for the masonry work, as the brick-fields will give much labor to the people.

10. It was arranged that the district and divisional Narratives from the distressed tracts under Circular No. 80 of 17th November should be submitted in alternate weeks, *i.e.*, fortnightly. The district Narratives down to 29th November, together with the Resolutions of Government upon them, are submitted herewith.* The information contained in them has been to a great extent anticipated in the Narrative of 6th December. The Narratives of two Commissioners, bringing the history of affairs down to the 6th December, have now come to hand. They are for the most part reviews of the district Narratives for the fortnight ending November 29th. Premising then that these reports do not give the history of affairs beyond 29th November, the following is a brief synopsis of their contents:—

* Enclosures 4, 5, 6.

A.—State of the Country.

There is as yet no general scarcity of food at the high prices quoted. In Northern Chumparun, however, parts of Rungpore, Eastern Rajshahye, and South-Eastern Purneah, food may be said to be already scarce. Every effort has been made to obtain information regarding the stocks held, but the information obtained is admittedly unreliable. The enormous area of the country, the suspiciousness of the people in regard to such inquiries, make it very difficult to ascertain with accuracy the amount of food in store. In the absence of statistics we must rely upon the opinion of persons who have means of judging. The general outcome of the opinions given by local officers is that the stocks held are small, not more than equal to a three months' supply. This is corroborated by the fact that the new rice is in some places already coming into consumption.

The condition of the people is generally satisfactory, the tracts mentioned above where food is already scarce being excepted.

There have as yet been no cases of extreme misery and starvation other than such as occur in ordinary years, nor have grain thefts yet become common.

B.—Relief Works.

Various new roads have been marked out, and work has been commenced both upon new roads and upon the repairs of old roads. The supply of food is at present sufficient without recourse to Government stocks. As a rule, employment is not in very great demand, but in parts of Sarun, Monghyr, Purneah, Rajshahye, and Rungpore, the demand is brisker than in ordinary years. The condition of the laborers is good.

Some difficulty has arisen about payment for work. The system of petty contract usually adopted is not considered suitable to relief works. On the other hand payment to individuals entails large establishments. Matters are being adjusted in accordance with the principles determined at the meeting at Government House, 10th November (see page 2 of the memorandum in Appendix C to the second Special Narrative).

C.—Transport of Food.

The supplies of Government grain now going forward will test the means of transport. The local officers as yet anticipate no great difficulty, and are making arrangements for the transport of the consignments of which they have received advices.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

Places of storage have been selected, and the construction of storage houses has been commenced where suitable accommodation could not be otherwise provided. Arrangements for the custody and administration of these storage houses are being made. Government grain is already beginning to arrive.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

With the exception of the planters of North Behar, private parties have not come forward very actively for advances either for trade or for land improvements.

F.—Charitable Relief.

No actual relief operations have been commenced, nor have preparatory arrangements been made except in Maldah.

Some further crop reports for December, under Circular No. 70 of the 13th October, have come to hand, and will be collated in the next Narrative, when they have been received from all districts.

The answers to Circular No. 77 of the 13th November, asking for a special report comparing the present year with 1865-66, have not yet all come in. It is hoped that the result of these reports may be forwarded with the next Narrative. So far the general result tends to show that in most districts the autumn crops of the present year are worse than in 1865. This is certainly so in Behar and North Bengal.

The subject of emigration is still under consideration. The gentlemen who have applied for laborers for Assam and Cachar have been told that it is not probable that definite arrangements can be made till after the 15th January. Meantime the new Labor Transport Act actively engages Legislative Council. The British India Steam Navigation Company have offered to convey coolies from Calcutta to Rangoon at Rs. 12 a head exclusive of food on the voyage.

11. From the Soane Canal works we learn that the area under irrigation is still extending in the Shahabad district, 12,000 acres having been added since last report. On the eastern side the water, which was described as having reached the Poonpoon river, has advanced 56 miles down that river, bursting some bunds

which had been thrown across it. The means for distributing this water supply are very incomplete, but the Magistrate of Gya is making every exertoni to render them more efficacious.

Arrangements are being made for storing grain at 11 places on the works on the western side of the Soane and at four places on the eastern side.

Some 17,000 laborers are now employed on the canal head works and on the Arrah canal. No return of those employed on the eastern side has come in. The canal officers agree with the district authorities in reporting that there is no special demand for labor on the Soane works at present.

No report has yet been received that work has begun on the Gunduck embankments.

Owing to the difficulty in working caused by percolation from the Damooda the Kana Nuddee has not been opened as it was expected it would be on the 10th. It will probably be opened on the 15th. Here again there is no great demand for labor, 500 men having left the works during the week. The daily average is now only 890 in place of 1,390 last week.

Till the harvest and cold weather sowings are completed or abandoned there will not be much demand for employment.

12. The Commissioner of Patna having represented that the saltpetre makers of Northern Behar are among the poorest of the population, and suffered badly in former times of scarcity, the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered the suspension for the present of Act XXXI of 1861, and the employment on relief operations of the establishments appointed under that Act for the detection of illicit salt manufacture by saltpetre makers. The same Commissioner proposed to confine exemption from tolls on roads to carts laden with food-grains, to the exclusion of wood, indigo, and other produce. It was not thought advisable to make the distinction suggested.

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore was told that if exportation was going on in his division, he might fairly purchase in the local market so much as would practically put a stop to the export of grain. He, however, showed cogent reasons against the appearance of Government as a buyer in local markets, and the matter has been left to his discretion.

The Commissioner of Chota Nagpore having represented the peculiar position of the district of Singbhoom in his division, he has been allowed to store some grain there. The relaxations of rules under Act XXVI of 1871 (see paragraph 6 of the Narrative of 28th November) have been extended to the division of Chota Nagpore.

The Commissioner of Orissa does not feel any anxiety regarding the ability of the parties who have contracted to deliver rice in Calcutta to Government to obtain freight. The British India Steam Navigation Company have explained that the former low rate charged by them of 8 annas a bag from False Point was an exceptional one, put on with a view to encourage trade. Trade having arisen, they think themselves now justified in charging ordinary rates. The Company have offered freight to Government on favorable terms.

The India General Steam Navigation Company have offered to run their steamer, the *Pioneer*, to Balasore with flats to bring up rice if she can get a certificate from the Master Attendant. This, if found possible, will greatly facilitate the import of rice from Northern Orissa.

It has already been mentioned that the planters of Northern Behar have come forward freely for advances for purchase of grain. The Commissioner of Patna acknowledges the zeal they have shown in promoting and supervising the relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor cordially agrees with the Commissioner in his eulogy of the conduct of the planters at this critical time.

The committee, which was referred to in the last Narrative as having been organized in Chumparun for the purpose of importing grain and selling it at cost price, has commenced operations. Some of the subscriptions promised by the local agents have not been sanctioned by their Calcutta principals, but it is confidently anticipated that the owners in England will support the local agents.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,

Addl. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 12th December 1873.

Appendix A to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 *in Bengal, from* 6*th December to* 12*th December* 1873.

Appendix A.

Note on the Movement of Food Grains.

1. The downward Ganges trade in wheat and grain from Behar to Calcutta still continues. Over 22,000 maunds passed the Sahebgunge registering station between 3rd and 9th December, making some 122,000 maunds since 1st November.

The upward Ganges trade in pulses has increased, 22,000 maunds having passed up since last report, making a total of 73,000 maunds since 1st November. The rice trade has slightly expanded, but still only 8,000 maunds have gone up, making a total, since 1st November, of some 40,000 maunds. There is at present then hardly any trade in rice by river between Eastern Bengal and Behar. The little rice that does go up is consigned as much to the Benares division of the North-Western Provinces as to our Behar divisions.

2. The returns from the registering stations at Goalundo and Kooshtea for the week ending 6th December show that nearly 30,000 maunds of food-grains, chiefly wheat and gram, have passed down the Gorai. This makes a total, since the beginning of November, of 128,000 maunds. It has been before observed that this traffic is nearly the same with that downwards past Sahebgunge.

During the same week nearly 28,000 maunds of rice was registered passing up the Ganges at Goalundo, making a total of 91,000 maunds since the beginning of November. Much of this will probably eventually pass Sahebgunge.

The Eastern Bengal Railway still carries little or no grain.

3 90,000 maunds of rice have come into Calcutta by the Eastern canals since last report up to the 10th December. This makes a total of 728,000 maunds since 1st October.

4. The despatches of rice from Howrah during the week have been 103,000 maunds. Despatches from Chandernagore have nearly ceased. The total of consignments from Howrah and Chandernagore since October 8th has now reached a million maunds (about 37,000 tons).

5 During the week the exports from Calcutta by sea have increased. The following table shows the amounts of each grain exported :—

	Mds
Rice	182,033
Wheat	12,800
Oats	2,499
Dal	3,539
Gram	10,221
Total ..	2,11 092

The exports of rice from Calcutta to beyond the sea since 1st November have amounted to some 457,000 maunds.

The imports of rice during the week have been from—

	Mds.
Rangoon	7,400
Moulmein	1,004
Orissa Ports	17,758
Miscellaneous	150
Total ..	26,312

6. The export of rice from Chittagong to foreign ports during the week has been trifling, but a consignment of 9,000 maunds has started for Calcutta.

7. During the fortnight ending November 29th, 121,000 maunds of grain was exported by rail from Delhi, consigned to various stations between Agra and Howrah. During the week ending November 30th some 18,000 maunds was exported from Umballa by rail, and during the week ending December 1st some 81,000 maunds from Loodhiana, consigned to places below Agra.

8. This note must be read with reference to previous notes, and also with reference to what has been said regarding receipt and despatches of Government rice.

H. Luttman-Johnson,
Addl. Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

The 12th December 1873.

Appendix B. to Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873 in Bengal, from 6th December to 12th December 1873.

No. 3550, dated Fort William, the 6th December 1873.

From—R. B. Chapman, Esq., Secretary to the Govt. of India, Financial Dept.,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I am directed by the President in Council to acknowledge your No. 46, of the 2nd current, forwarding a preliminary estimate of the requirements of grain by the Government of Bengal.

2. The Government of Bengal propose to provide grain for 5 per cent. of a population of 25 millions for 3 months, from beginning of February to the end of April, at the rate of two-thirds of a seer per day, or 18,75,000 maunds, and hope to place within reach of the distressed districts by the end of January 9,50,000 maunds, leaving 6,55,000 maunds, or 24,000 tons, to be provided by the Government of India from beyond sea.

3. The President in Council is inclined to regard the estimate of two-thirds of a seer per head per diem as high. Half a seer or 1lb per head, including women and children, would seem to be sufficient. It is probable, indeed, that a lower estimate would be taken by some authorities. At half a seer, then, the amount to be provided would be 14,00,000, say 14 lakhs of maunds, instead of the 18,75,000 maunds (18¾ lakhs) mentioned in your 2nd paragraph.

4. Bearing this in mind, the President in Council has to consider the quantity of 9,50,000 maunds, which, according to your 2nd paragraph, the Government of Bengal propose to purchase and to have ready by the end of January.

5. It is in the first place to be observed that this amount includes only 2,00,000 maunds out of the 3,00,000 ordered by the Government of Bengal from Orissa, leaving 1,00,000 to come on during February, as is seen from the narrative for the 21st November. Thus, the total proposed for the three months is brought up from 9,50,000 to 10,50,000 maunds (38,500 tons).

6. Looking to these considerations, the President in Council believes that the present estimate of requirements leaves some considerable margin beyond what would be calculated on the assumed data as absolutely essential to security. There are, however, advantages in allowing such a margin; and on the whole the President in Council thinks he is justified in sanctioning the proposal to procure such quantities by the end of January as the Government of Bengal may deem necessary within a present limit of 9,50,000 maunds.

7. As correctly observed in your 2nd paragraph, the Government of India have ordered 10,000 tons, or 2,72,222 maunds, which will arrive from beyond sea by January.

8. The Government of Bengal now request that a further quantity of 24,000 tons may be obtained from Burmah by the end of January. The Chief Commissioner of Burmah has been requested to send additional quantities of grain (within a certain maximum limit) as soon as possible. The President in Council is not prepared to state whether this order can be executed to the extent of 24,000 tons by the end of January, but every endeavour will be used for this end. Probably some considerable quantity will be sent in time. If there should be any difficulty in this respect, the Government of India will take such steps as may be necessary, bearing in mind the estimate of requirements as just sanctioned.

9. If, however, the whole of the 24,000 tons should not arrive before the end of January, it will certainly arrive well within the period of the three months, beginning with the 1st February.

10. And it is to be borne in mind that quantities of grain in excess of the 24,000 tons have been already arranged for by the Government of India. These quantities will arrive before April, and may be regarded as constituting a provision in addition to the preliminary provision now proposed by the Government of Bengal.

11. The President in Council duly observes that the Lieutenant-Governor regards the present estimate of requirements as necessarily defective. As soon as any revised estimate can be prepared by the Government of Bengal, the President in Council will be glad to receive it, and immediate attention will be given to it on receipt.

12. I am to state, in conclusion, that the Government of India are anxious to anticipate the eventualities of the threatened scarcity to calculate beforehand the full extent of the difficulties that may be before us, to concert with the local Government the best preparations that can be made, and to afford to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor the fullest and most cordial support in giving prompt effect thereto.

W. R. R.

No. 3889.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Calcutta, *dated* 11*th December* / *issued December* 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of the Financial Secretary's letter No. 3550, dated 6th December, in which is conveyed His Honor the President in Council's sanction to the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal that a total supply of 1,875,000 maunds of Government grain should be provided for the distressed districts of Bengal by the 31st January. Sir George Campbell will carefully bear in mind the views and wishes expressed at paragraphs 11 and 12 of the letter under reply; he notes also that (as stated in paragraph 10) quantities of grain in excess of the provision now asked for have been ordered from beyond the sea.

2. There is, however, one point on which the Lieutenant-Governor would ask permission to offer further observations; and one other matter on which he would solicit orders.

First. Paragraph 9 of the letter under reply mentions that in any case, the balance to be provided from beyond sea (about 24,000 tons) will certainly arrive well within the three months from February to April next. The Lieutenant-Governor did not reckon the three months' supply to be from February to April. He fears we cannot reckon that our grain supply now sanctioned will remain intact until the end of January. We are sending it up-country as quickly as possible, and it may be drawn upon before the end of January in some of the more distressed tracts. On the imperial works it will probably come early into use; and it is possible that much more than 5 per cent. of the population of the districts now reckoned as distressed may require assistance before the end of April. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to submit that when he framed his preliminary estimate, his wish was to have a full three months' supply for 5 per cent. of the distressed population in the country before the end of January. He very strongly feels that if we get no favourable rain in December and January, and the spring food-crops fail us, we may have to import food from Burmah and elsewhere to the utmost during the remaining months from January until the south-west monsoons set in. If the scarcity should threaten anything approaching the famine of 1865 in Orissa, or the famine* of 1770 in Bengal, we shall want much greater supplies than we have now proposed. If the prospects before us appear to be worse before the end of January, we shall then be able to hurry up rice from Burmah. The Lieutenant-Governor always has before him the terrible possibility, which was so unhappily realized in 1770, that the area of distress may extend; that food may be required in Central and Western Bengal. If such a disaster should come we could

* The records of 1768-70 make it clear that over a part of the famine area the distress, starvation, and deaths of 1769-70 were the result of the failures of a single year

only cope with it, even partially, by having already stored in the *present* distressed area a considerable supply of food.

3. It must, the Lieutenant-Governor would mention, be remembered that absence of December and January rain imports more or less failure of the spring crops over the North-West Provinces except on irrigated lands, and in such a case Behar could hardly hope further to supply itself very largely from the North-West.

4. If we have the supply mentioned by the Lieutenant-Governor in hand by the end of January, we may hope to be able, if occasion requires, to bring in much more food during the remaining months, and to distribute it before the rains set in. Beyond a total of say 200,000 tons we can hardly hope, as things are now arranged, to make distribution in the *present* distressed area by Government agency before the rainy season begins. But if distress should extend to, and Government grain should be required in, Central and Western Bengal, we could distribute by river, rail, and road a very much heavier amount; indeed we could, if need arose and circumstances permitted, probably distribute usefully over Lower Bengal the whole Burmah rice crop of 1874, and more if we could only get it. If, however, our proposed quantity of 70,000 tons is not provided or nearly provided by the end of January, we shall, if necessity should unhappily arise, find it very difficult indeed to distribute before the rains as much food as would be required.

5. It must be remembered moreover that carriage of grain will be cheaper and easier down to February than it can be at any later season, and therefore, whether we have to provide a further large supply or not, it will be in the end more economical to get the proposed 70,000 tons into the distressed districts before the 15th February, even though the prime cost of Burmah rice from the last crop be a trifle higher than the cost of the new crop rice will be in February.

As a very experienced officer in one of the distressed districts remarks, the Lieutenant-Governor is firmly convinced that in any case, whether the extremity of distress is eventually reached or not, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a stock of grain in hand in the distressed districts, and he thinks that the quantity now sanctioned cannot be there too soon.

6. On all grounds, therefore, whether of economy or of general policy, Sir George Campbell would very strongly urge that no effort and no expenditure (within reasonable limits) be spared to produce the delivery in Calcutta of the 24,000 tons asked for from beyond the seas *before the end of January next.*

7. It may perhaps be right for the Lieutenant-Governor to mention now (with reference to paragraph 3 of the letter under reply) that Burmah cargo rice loses a considerable portion of its weight when cleaned for food. If, as will probably be the case, most of the 25,000 or 30,000 tons of Burmah grain will be "cargo rice," about one-eighth of its weight will be unfit for human food; and in every estimate of the food-supply available, that one-ninth must be deducted from the gross weight of the Burmah rice available.

8. The *second* point on which the Lieutenant-Governor would solicit orders is, whether this Government is at liberty to send rice from beyond the sea for storage on local works. Hitherto, in obedience to the rule that the Supreme Government was to procure grain for imperial works, and that the local Government was to provide grain for local works, the Lieutenant-Governor has been sending *all* the Burmah and Madras grain to the three* imperial works. But, as will be seen from the annexed† circular order, the Lieutenant-Governor has had to distribute two-thirds of the present and expected Government grain to places outside the imperial relief works. The imperial works will barely employ 200,000 or 250,000 people, however they may be pressed on; and if the worst comes, the Government will have many more mouths to feed than four or

* Sone Canal.
Gunduck Embankment
Northern Bengal Railway.

† Circular No. 3834, dated 6th December, with enclosure.

five hundred thousand. Seeing that grain from across the seas forms one-half of the provision sanctioned up to the 31st January, the Lieutenant-Governor would ask permission to distribute this grain both to imperial and to local works according to the scale which he has set forth in the letter appended. He will take care that the accounts are kept as far as possible separate; and this separation will be so much the easier, as the Burmah rice is readily-distinguishable from any of the Indian kinds.

9. I am to sum up what has been said in this letter—

(1) by submitting that the Lieutenant-Governor very earnestly hopes that no effort may be spared to get the extra 24,000 or 25,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea into the country by the 31st January at latest;

(2) by soliciting permission for this Government to store, when need arises to use, rice from beyond the sea on local as well as on imperial works.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

W. E. B.

No. 3834.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE RAJSHAHYE, PATNA, AND BHAUGULPORE DIVISIONS, AND TO THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS OF THE SOANE CANAL, GUNDUCK EMBANKMENT, AND NORTHERN BENGAL RAILWAY WORKS.

Calcutta, the 6th December 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

THE Lieutenant-Governor, after reviewing the whole position as to the food-supply of Bengal and Behar, recently reported to the Government of India his views as follows:—

"As a preliminary arrangement, the Lieutenant-Governor would wish to have in the distressed districts, or in depôt ready for them before the end of January 1874, sufficient Government grain to supply five per cent. of the inhabitants of those districts for a period of three months. These districts contain about 25 millions of people; one-twentieth of this population (at the rate of two-thirds of a seer per head per day) would consume 1,875,000 maunds of grain in the three months:—

	Maunds.	
The Government of India have already ordered from beyond sea, deliverable in January, 10,000 tons, or say		270,000
The Government of Bengal hopes to have by the end of January—		
	Maunds	
From Calcutta and the Eastern Districts	400,000	
„ Orissa	200,000	
„ the North-West Provinces	350,000	
		950,000
Balance to be provided		655,000
Total ...		1,875,000

The Lieutenant-Governor would recommend that this requirement be met by the Government of India's providing this balance by ordering a further immediate despatch of 25,000 tons of grain from beyond the sea. All this further consignment should be delivered in Calcutta as early as possible, and no part of it later than the end of January, and the Lieutenant-Governor would arrange for its despatch to the interior as promptly as possible.

"If all this quantity of grain could be provided, then we should probably be in a condition to prevent starvation, and to alleviate keen distress wherever it might occur up to the end of April 1874, on the supposition that there will be only very severe scarcity and very high prices. By the end of January, and at any rate long before the 1,875,000 maunds were consumed, we should know how the spring crops were turning out, and should have better means of judging how far the scarcity was likely to deepen into a severe famine; and the Government of India should be able to order up from Burmah as much as might be thought necessary of the abundant new crop which the Burmese are said to be expecting."

2. The Government of India has been pleased to accept the Lieutenant-Governor's recommendation, with the reservation that two-thirds of a seer per head is a large allowance for the whole distressed population, inclusive of women and children; but that, as it is desirable in such affairs to have a margin, the whole of the proposed provision may be sanctioned. Accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor reckons upon having this amount of Government grain (more or less) available in Bengal by the end of January next. He therefore notifies to each division and district, and to each imperial work, what is the amount it should prepare to receive, to transport, and to store between this time and the end of January next. Appended to this letter is a table of the total allotments the Lieutenant-Governor makes to each distressed district and imperial work. The statement provides a reserve of 375,000 maunds for allotment to any district which may emergently require further grain, or which may have satisfactorily transported and stored on relief works all the grain now allotted. From this reserve may be sent supplies to central depôts like Patna, Monghyr, or Godagaree, and to districts like Maldah and Rajshahye, which are not reckoned as wholly distressed.

3. It must be understood that the 18¾ lakhs of maunds, and the specific allotments shown in the Appendix, include all quantities of Government grain (Burmah or Indian) sent to or purchased by Commissioners, District Officers, or Superintending Engineers, up to the 31st January next, and are not in addition to the amounts already received. The allotments are of course exclusive of grain provided by the managers of wards' estates, or obtained by private persons on advances.

It will be understood that the accounts of storehouses of grain for use on imperial and on local works will be kept quite distinct.

4. Regarding the sources and modes of supply of this grain, the Lieutenant-Governor will cause you to be addressed further as soon as he knows for certain how much Government grain ordered by yourself, or by the officers under you, you expect to have received before the end of January. On this point you are requested to submit an immediate report. Meanwhile, all the appliances for the receipt and transport of the quantity of grain indicated must be arranged so as to dispose of and store these quantities before the middle of February next at the latest. Storehouses and establishments for receiving and passing on grain at and from railway or river-side stations should be prepared, and the depôts at the places of final storage should be ready and in order.

In respect to carriage, carts should not be kept in waiting till advice of the approach of the grain is received, but the carriage necessary should be estimated, and the carriage resources of each district fully ascertained, and everything should be so planned and prepared that as each despatch reaches the rail or river station, it may be sent on to its final destination without delay. The whole resources in the way of carriage will then be available for further grain supplies, if unhappily they should be required.

5. Though *the extract* quoted above speaks of keeping the people from starvation, it must nevertheless be understood that as yet the Government keeps to the policy previously stated, and frequently repeated, that Government grain is to be stored only on relief works, and is to be used only for feeding people on such works. It is only in emergency that it may be necessary to supply relief houses by way of loan.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

D. E. J.

Appendix C. *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 6*th December to* 12*th December* 1873.

No. 3888.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

IN THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, *dated* 11*th December* / *issued December* } 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3325, dated 26th November, asking this Government to submit statement of the various temporary appointments relating to the scarcity which are being or are likely to be created in the Civil Department, and which will need the sanction of the Government of India, and also desiring to have some approximate estimate of the cost likely to be incurred on account of the scarcity.

2. As regards this last, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor will separately address the Government of India. In my letter No. 46PS, of 2nd December, was submitted an estimate of the preliminary supply of grain which the Lieutenant-Governor desires to lay in before the end of January, viz. 1,875,000 maunds. If we take the price of the grain delivered in the distressed districts to be on an average Rs. 4 per maund, the total charge for that grain in the present year 1873-74 will be Rs. 75,00,000 (£750,000). As regards other items consideration is necessary. Supposing an equal quantity to be purchased in February and March, the cost in 1873-74 for grain purchased would be £1,500,000.

3. The establishments to be eventually entertained will of course depend on the degree of scarcity which may accrue and the extent of the measures eventually undertaken. Meantime I am desired to submit the following detail of the establishments which the Lieutenant-Governor has entertained, or proposes shortly to entertain. His Excellency the Viceroy and the Government of India have been pleased to express an opinion that, in accordance with the advice of the Orissa Famine Commissioners and with the experience of other Governments which have had to combat famines, very full and sufficient provision should be made for strengthening the district and divisional staff of the distressed tracts, and for enabling the local Government to control and direct, and to give an account of what is being done. In this view the Lieutenant-Governor has estimated for a sufficient addition to his Secretariat staff; for a strong Central Relief Committee when the time comes; for a Relief Commissioner or other competent deputy to each Commissioner of a distressed division; and for at least two extra officers to each distressed district. He has not asked for extra allowances for the district officers or for any superior officers; but he has asked for special allowances (to include all travelling allowance) in behalf of the officers who are to assist the Commissioners and also nine of the special officers posted to each district for relief work. Schedule A appended to this letter shows the total monthly cost of these officers to be Rs. 26,748. Into this sum is reckoned the full salary of officers from the North-Western Provinces, of the special officers posted to divisions, and of the officers attached to the Central Relief Committee or to the Government head-quarters. But in the case of officers taken from the civil staff, the police or other departments, and specially posted to districts for relief work only, the proposed extra allowances only are debited to the "Scarcity."

The Lieutenant-Governor proposes to class the officers employed to assist the district officers in four grades, receiving respectively Rs. 500, 300, 200 and 100 per mensem, which is to cover travelling and other expenses.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks it will suffice to reckon that two or three months charges for these officers will fall into the accounts of 1873-74, and that six months charges will fall into the accounts of 1874-75. Some of these establishments may not be absolutely required until February 1874, or even later; but some again have been employed since the beginning of November and December 1873. According to this estimate the total cost for these establishments may be—

	Rs.
In 1873-74 (two months charge)	53,496
In 1874-75 (six months charge)	1,60,488

5. If the proposals made in schedule A, or any modification thereof, be sanctioned, the Lieutenant-Governor would ask permission to employ officers within these limits as occasion may arise, with the proviso that he may employ fewer men in the higher grades and more in the lower grades, so long as the total estimate is not exceeded in any month without further sanction.

6. *Secondly.*—The Lieutenant-Governor anticipates that we may expect to require extra clerks and accountants; and also store-keepers, guards, and peons for grain store-houses, or at places for the collection of grain consignments, as per appendix B. The total cost of these establishments, as at present estimated, is Rs. 11,075 a month :—

	Rs.
Two months of this charge for 1873-74	22,150
Six ditto ditto for 1874-75	66,450

7 The Lieutenant-Governor would not be understood to say that the total charges for relief expenditure on civil offices of all kinds will come within the figures now offered; but he would hope to keep it within this amount for the present at any rate, and provided that the area of distress does not very greatly extend.

8 In regard to—

(*a*) the possible relief works expenditure,

(*b*) the possible expenditure for purchase and transport of grain,

the Lieutenant-Governor will hereafter make some attempt at an estimate. For the present, however, the Lieutenant-Governor merely submits the appended schedules showing that—

	In 1873-74.	In 1874-75.
(1) civil appointments may cost Rs. 26,748 a month, or	51,496	1,60,488
(2) clerks, store-keepers, and petty officials may cost Rs. 11,075 a month, or	22,150	66,450
Total ...	73,646	2,26,938

The Lieutenant-Governor apprehends that he may have to ask the Government of India to set aside a competent officer of the Account Department to take charge of all the accounts of rice purchase, rice transport, extra establishments, and *all* "scarcity" expenditure not chargeable to public works. This officer should work in the Accountant-General's Office, under the Accountant-General, in concert with the Secretary to this Government in the Relief Department. If some such small separate office of account can be organised and relief expenditure of all kinds can be audited and brought to account as it occurs, very great future trouble to officers and possible loss to Government will be saved. In the Orissa famine, for want of some such arrangement, over a lakh of rupees on one account alone had to be written off as unexplainable or irrecoverable. Probably, if an officer of the Financial Department could be made available, the whole cost of the audit and accounting establishments would not exceed Rs. 500 or 600 a month.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

W. E. B.

Appendix 6 *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 6*th December to* 12*th December* 1873.

APPENDIX D.

Return of Despatches of Grain to the Interior from Calcutta up to 11th December 1873.

Division.	Station to which sent.	Quantity sent (Indian maunds).			Total rice sent to each division.
		Burmah rice.	Bengal rice.	Total.	
Patna	Patna Ghat	22,726	10,708	33,434	.....
	Barh	.....	3,073	3,073	.....
	Arrah	3,408	6,617	10,025	.....
	Mogulserai	3,293	6,619	9,912	.....
	Add for Bengal rice bought in November for the Soane Canal works, and sent up-country by private agency before Mr. Toynbee took charge.	.....	13,236	13,236	69,680
Bhaugulpore	Bhaugulpore	.....	34,000	34,000	.....
	Caragolah	.....	7,212	7,212	.....
	Lakhiserai	.....	5,129	5,129	.....
	Monghyr	.....	2,091	2,091	.....
	Sahibgunge	.....	3,924	3,924	.....
	Rajmehal	5,297	..	5,297	58,253
Rajshahye	Kooshtea	4,148	26,619	30,767	.....
	Goalundo	22,796	..	22,796	53,563
	Grand total	61,668	119,828	181,496	181,496
	Of which was sent during November	39,124	52,152	91,276	.....
	Leaving sent in December up to date	22,544	51,440	76,984	.....

H. Luttman-Johnson,

Addl. Under-Secretary.

The 12th December 1873.

Enclosures 1 *to* - *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 6*th to* 12*th December* 1873.

Rainfall, Weather and State and Prospects of the Crops.

Statement showing Rainfall, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops in the different Districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 6th December 1873.

	No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL.				
		Western Districts.		
BURDWAN DIVISION.	1	Burdwan ...	.....	Return not received.
	2	Bancoorah, 6th Dec. 1873	Nil	Rather cloudy, but cold. The rice crop is still being reaped. In parts an eight-anna crop is hoped for, but in others not more than three or four annas can be expected. The cultivation of the cold weather crops is not trifling.
	3	Beerbhoom, 6th " "	Nil	Cool and occasionally cloudy Harvest of the late rice still in progress; cold weather crops being put in wherever water is procurable. Sugarcane promises fairly. Export by rail of week ending 29th November 7,212 maunds chiefly to Patna Division. Corrected return of the preceding week 15,430 maunds. Considerable export to Raneegunge by road. Prices slightly falling.
	4	Midnapore, 6th " "	Nil	Seasonable weather; cold and clear, with a north breeze. The rice is being everywhere harvested a little earlier than the usual time for cutting. The little rain there was last week has done rather injury than good to what few mustard and radish crops there are.
	5	Hooghly, 6th " "	Nil	Cloudy, otherwise clear throughout; wind from the north and north-east. The rice crop varies in different parts of the district from a three-anna to a twelve-anna crop; it is said that only a quarter of the usual area is under cold weather crop cultivation.
		Howrah, 6th " "	0·13	More seasonably cold than hitherto. The nights cloudy, but no rain worth mentioning has fallen. The late rice is fast ripening, some is ripe already, and the harvest will begin at once. Now that the crop is nearly mature, it is admitted very generally that it is fuller than could have been hoped for; an eight-anna crop is confidently expected; a half crop would support all the inhabitants fairly for a year. Fever fast disappearing out of the town.
		Central Districts.		
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.	6	24-Pergunnahs, 9th* Dec. 1873.	Nil	Cloudy in the morning during the early part of the week; weather still warm for the time of the year Such of the crop on high lands as has survived the drought is being harvested; that on the beel lands is not yet ripe The outturn is poor. Prospects of cold weather crops very gloomy; sowings have only been made in patches and only where water was procurable. Fever still continues in portions of south Suburban Town and Baraset; in Barcepore it is not increasing, while in Baseerhat and Satkherah it is reported to be abating.
	7	Nuddea, 6th " "	Nil	Generally cloudy and extremely slight drizzling rain in several parts of the district on the 28th and 29th November The state of things is very little changed. The late rice is still being cut. Prices are still moderate, though they are rising. The average price for the coarsest rice throughout the district, does not exceed two rupees eight annas per maund. Much distress is apprehended for want of drinking water this season.
	8	Jessore, 6th " "	·02	Cloudy, with slight drizzling rain all over the district, not enough however to do any good. The late rice crop is being got in. The *chotan* paddy is scanty; the *baran* is promising well so far. The prospects of the winter crops have not improved. The attacks of insects on them have been favoured by the cloudy weather. The price of rice is generally rising, and exportation is going on from the Sudder, Jhenidah, and Magoorah sub divisions.
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION.	9	Moorshedabad, 6th Dec 1873.	Nil	Thick clouds occasionally, but no rain. Rather cool and pleasant weather. The harvest of late rice is going on in all parts of the district, but no exact estimate of the general outturn can as yet be formed. It will probably be better than at first expected. The cold weather crops are however suffering very badly from the drought and insects. Mashkalai (pulse) and sesamum (oil-seed) are in a fair condition in the north; but mustard, wheat and barley are backward. The crops look well on the low lands only.
	10	Dinagepore, 6th " "	Nil	Clear days; fresh cold nights and mornings. Paddy is being cut throughout the district. All signs of rain gone; a fall of rain just now would injure what there is of rice ready for cutting; it would also damage the mustard in flower. Sugarcane reported a fair crop. Prices are stationary.

* Report of the 9th December received on the same day. Shows rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No	District and date of return	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL —(*Contd.*)			
	Central Districts —(Contd.)		
RAJSHAHYE DIVN —(*Contd.*) 11	Maldah, 6th Dec. 1873	Nil	The heavy clouds of last week dispersed without any rain. The weather this week is fair and cold; direction of wind north-westerly. The prospect of rain seems as far off as ever. The amun or low land late rice crop in the north-west of the district is being reaped, but prices still continue very high there. The reaping of the hymant (winter) crop on the high lands to the east of the district has also commenced, but prices generally have not lowered. The cold weather crops require rain. The health of the district is good. Work going on on district roads and new works being projected. It is noticed that the demand for work by local laborers is increasing.
12	Rajshahye 6th „ „	Nil	There have been some cloudy days during the week, but no rains throughout the district. The late rice harvest is being carried on. More than half the crop is still standing, principally in the beels and on the lowest ground. The yield is of course poor in comparison with the crops of ordinary years, in consequence of the drought, even in the south-eastern corner of the district where the paddy has germinated and grown better than in other parts. New rice (present season's late rice) is in the market in many parts of the district. The state of the cold weather crops varies a good deal according to locality. Where sown on low lands, chur lands, or lands from which water has recently dried off, or where irrigation is practicable, the prospects of wheat, barley, pulses, and oil-seeds are not unfavorable. On high lands and where artificial watering is not practicable, the plants, which have grown to twelve or eighteen inches, are fast withering away, and unless rain falls soon will come to little or nothing. The mulberry crop is as good as in ordinary years, and there is a sugarcane crop quite as good as is usually seen. Mashkalai (pulse) is at present a fairly good crop, considering the absence of moisture, but must have rain to give good results. The cloudy weather has caused the appearance, in some parts, of insects which attack wheat and barley. On the 1st December rice was sold in Doorgapur hât (north of Putea jurisdiction) for about ten seers for the rupee. This high price was more probably owing to there being an exceptionally small supply in the hât on that particular day, than to any other cause. Elsewhere prices have not varied except in Bagmara and its neighbourhood, where rice is dearer than it was. Cases of cholera continued to be reported chiefly from the neighbourhood of Charghat.
13	Rungpore, 6th „ „	Nil	Fine; warm in the middle of the day. The late rice crop is being cut; the produce varies from one anna to four annas all near and about the station. In Dimlah and Forunbari the produce will be five to six annas: potatoes and winter crops generally are fair, and tobacco is in good condition, but it is somewhat backward from the dry state of the ground. Spring rice cut. Millet is being more largely sown than usual in hopes of rain. The demand for labor is more active as the harvest operations are on. No severe distress anywhere at present. Prices continue much the same. Rs. 3-8 to 4 for a maund of rice.
14	Bograh, 6th „ „	Nil	Still dry. The late rice crops are being cut; a poor outturn is to be expected, though a certain amount of good has been done by irrigation. Sugarcane will yield a good outturn. Cold weather crops in parts are unfavorably reported upon. Price of ordinary rice at the Bograh market on the 6th December, 15 seers of 80 tolahs per rupee.
15	Pubna, 6th „ „	Nil	Cool and somewhat cloudy, with heavy fogs. The diggah paddy is being reaped, and a seven anna crop is expected. The boro is still on the ground. Winter crops, except sugarcane and turmeric, becoming worse for want of rain. Here and there mashkalai and moog (pulses) doing fairly. Boro paddy is being sown but to a limited extent, the beels being too dry. Fever prevails throughout the district, and a considerable portion of the population has been invalided.
COOCH BEHAR DIVN. 16	Darjeeling, 6th „ „	Nil	No rain, a bright sun, but a hazy atmosphere; clear nights and frosty mornings. In the plains and in the hills also a ten-anna crop all round may, it is hoped, be reckoned upon. Bugrah or common rice has fallen in price throughout the district owing to the new rice having been partially gathered.
17	Julpigoree, 6th „ „	Nil	The appearance of rain passed off, and the weather has been bright and clear, and sun unusually powerful. There is little to notice in the way of change. Prospects are as before. The late rice crop is now being cut and prices falling as new paddy comes into the markets. Cold weather crops generally promise well.
	Cooch Behar, 6th „ „	Nil	Mornings generally foggy. There are no signs of rain now. There is no change in the prospects of the crops since last report. Exportation to Rungpore and other districts still going on.
	Eastern Districts.		
DACCA DIVISION 18	Dacca, 9th* Dec. 1873	Nil	Weather warm for the season; heavy dew. Winter crops very fair. A good deal of boro paddy planted. Fever slightly decreasing.
19	Furreedpore, 6th „ „	0·02	At Furreedpore, mostly cloudy during the week, but on Monday and Tuesday bright sunshine at Goalundo; the clouds were heavy on Tuesday, but no rain. At Pangsha, cloudy on Thursday, but no rain. The cloudy weather is not perhaps on the whole injurious to the cold weather crops which are very stunted and want rain badly. By day the clouds shield them from the sun, but again by night they tend to moderate the dew. The cloudy weather has led people to hope for rain, and some ploughing has been going on. Reaping the late rice still continues, and the present weather is good for getting in the harvest.

* Telegram of the 9th December received on the same day. Shows the rainfall during the seven days immediately preceding.

No	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL —(*Contd.*)			
	Eastern Districts —(Contd.)		
DACCA DIVN —(*Contd.*) 20	Backergunge, 6th Dec 1873.	1·10	Cloudy and rainy in the beginning of the week. It cleared up somewhat in the latter part. State and prospects of the crops have improved. The rain has dispelled the fears which were entertained of destruction by insects, though not before some damage was done in Dukhin Shabazpore. In Patuakhali the crops are good, and in the jurisdiction of Chalitabania, in the extreme south of the sub-division, the late rice is better than it was last year, and will yield 8 to 10 maunds a beegah. The Collector has seen the crops in portions of the Perozepore sub division and of the Jhalokatti thannah. The former were good, and he was told that all over the Perozepore sub-division the crops were tolerably good. Near Jhalokatti some very fine crops were seen, but along side the road from Jhalokatti to Burisal the crops are bad, and will not yield more than eight or ten annas. The new rice is coming into the markets and prices have fallen. On the whole, it seems almost certain that there will be a twelve-anna crop all over the district, and that there will be no distress among the ryots if they have the self-restraint to keep sufficient paddy for their own consumption throughout the year. Many boats have come to take away rice, and probably prices will rise considerably, and thus persons with fixed incomes and the non-agricultural classes generally will suffer no small amount of distress.
21	Mymensing, 6th " "	Nil	The first three days of the week cloudy, since then clear and cold; there has probably been rain somewhere. No change in the state and prospects of the crops.
22	Sylhet, 29th Nov. "	Nil	Very cloudy since Thursday. Barometer has fallen. Rain expected. The recent blight at Baniachung has done a great deal of damage to the crops which promised so well before. The large exportations lately have made the non-agricultural classes very uneasy. Upwards of 3,000 maunds of rice have been exported from Dalagunge from 10th to 26th November, 2,706 maunds to Calcutta, 625 maunds to Naraingunge, and 702 maunds of paddy to Calcutta From Bahadurgunge during the same time 100 maunds of rice and over 7,000 maunds of paddy have been exported 100 maunds of rice and 1,100 maunds of paddy to Patna, and the rest to Calcutta, Dacca, and Naraingunge There was a marked fall in the sudder bazar on the 28th November, and a slight fall in all the bazars in the district. This will probably check exportation for the present.
23	Cachar, " "	Nil	Cooler, but very cloudy; rain still keeps off. Smart shock of earth-quake at 2·30 on the 29th November. The state of the crops is much the same as last week. The late rice crop is being cut.
CHITTAGONG DIVISION. 24	Chittagong, " "	Few drops.	Since Wednesday, the 26th November, the weather has been dull and unseasonably warm. On the night of the 28th and morning of the 29th idem, a few drops of rain fell. No special change in the state of the crops. Paddy-cutting has commenced all over the district. Cholera cases are reported from Meerkaserai, Seetacoond, Sudder and Juldee Stations.
25	Noakhally, " "	Nil	Warm during the week; cloudy and cool, with a little rain, in the interior on the 29th November. Reports of the late rice crops not yet reaped are favorable, except from Hatra, where injuries done by the "Mayah" and "Sani" insects are still reported.
26	Tipperah, 6th Dec. "	1·14	Very gloomy and oppressive up to the night of the 4th December, since when the weather has cleared. Rain fell during Saturday and Wednesday nights. The weather however is still hot for December. Some rain has fallen throughout the district, and heavy rain to the south-west is reported also. The cold weather small crops have on the whole benefited by the rain, but the mustard in flower has been injured. The rice crop has not suffered. The price of rice continues high, but there is no occasion for alarm in this respect.
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts, 29th Nov. 1873.	Nil	Very cold throughout the whole week. Cloudy on the 29th November. The cotton is now being diligently gathered; mustard and other cold weather crops are being sown. The prospects of the former crop are good The outturn of the paddy crop has been tolerable. There is no reason to apprehend distress.
	Hill Tipperah, 29th Nov. 1873.	0·02	Cloudy and threatening rain; a few drops fell on the 27th and 28th November at the head-quarters. Reaping has fairly commenced. No change in the prospects of the rice crop. Mustard looks well about Agurtollah
BEHAR.			
PATNA DIVISION. 28	Patna, 8th* Dec 1873	Nil	Weather very cold in the mornings and evenings; no rain has fallen, and consequently no change in the prospects of the crops. Insects are still reported to be doing considerable damage to the young plants of the cold weather crops. Health of the district good.
29	Gya, 6th " "	Nil	Weather fine and cold; no rain has fallen in any part of the district. The cold weather crop is suffering for want of rain. The opening of Soane Canal has done much good, about 3,000 beegahs of land along its banks have already been irrigated, and it is expected that about 10,000 beegahs more will be irrigated in the course of the next week.

* Telegram of the 8th December received on the 9th Shows rainfall during the seven days including the 8th idem.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BEHAR.—(Contd.)			
PATNA DIVISION.—(Contd.)			
30	Shahabad, 6th Dec. 1873	Nil	Weather clear and cool, with heavy dews at night. The irrigated rice in the Susseeram Pergunnah is looking well and will be shortly harvested. The cold weather crop is also promising that had been watered; that part of the crop which has not been watered requires rain to ensure a fair crop, although at present it is growing favorably. In Bhubbooah sub-division the state of the crop is as much the same. Irrigation, wherever possible, is being carried on. In the Buxar and Arrah sub-divisions, the prospects of the cold weather crops that have been sown and come up have not changed for the worse, although they much require rain. In parts of the district the rice crop is beginning to be cut, and the "bajra" millet crop towards the west and south has yielded a good outturn in the few places where it has been sown.
31	Tirhoot, 6th " "	Nil	Weather cold and seasonable, with occasional foggy mornings. The prospects of the crops in the Seetamarhee sub-division have not materially changed during the past week. In some parts the paddy is bring cut and stocked. New rice is coming into the market, but is sold at nearly the same rate as old rice, viz. from 11-8 to 12-8 seers per rupee. The prices of all grains have remained almost stationary for the last three weeks. The cold weather crops which have come up still thrive, but without rain in this month it is very doubtful if they will come to much. The Deputy Collector of Durbhangha, who has now been through his sub-division, believes that about two annas of the rice crop have been saved. Mustard is said to be looking not badly; Janera, fair; and rahur (pulse), very fair. The utmost proportion of the cold weather crop lands sown is only one-eighth of the usual area, and even in this limited space the seed has not always germinated, while in some places the young crops are suffering from want of rain. Though the land is not being prepared for the cold weather crops, it is thought that if rain falls before January, large sowings will be made. In the Mudhoobani sub-division the cold weather crops are languishing and dying for want of rain. There is no change in the prospects of the rice crop. In the Tajpore Sub-division everything is almost at a standstill except on the Dearah. Four annas of the cold weather crops have still to be sown, and rain is required in the course of fifteen or twenty days to secure even an eight or nine-anna harvest. The root crops are giving a very poor yield, and tobacco is very backward. Prices have fallen slightly. In the Hajeepore sub-division the cold weather crop still holds out well and is in no present danger. Recent inquiries in the sudder sub-division show that cold weather crop has been sown to a greater extent than in ordinary years, and that a four-anna crop will probably be obtained under any circumstances. If rain falls within a fortnight there may be a six-anna crop.
32	Sarun, 6th " "	Nil	Seasonable and cold; west wind prevailing. The rice harvest has begun; the cold weather crop is still doing well, though rain is much wanted. Irrigation is steadily going on where practicable, but in the unirrigated fields the plants are looking sickly and of a yellowish green. Sugarcane is being cut and brought into the mills. People are being largely employed on the district local roads and relief works. Prices of food-grains on the whole steady.
33	Chumparun, 6th " "	Nil	Weather cool; west winds. The prospect of the late rice has changed for the worse rather than for the better. Twelve annas of the cold weather crop land have been cultivated with wheat, barley, gram, pulses, and oil-seeds. The seed on half of the said area has germinated and the plants are looking healthy, but of the rest some have been destroyed by insects and others did not germinate at all. The young plants will die if it does not rain soon. The people have cultivated cucumbers, melons, and other vegetables of the like nature on banks of rivers and khals and on low lands on a larger scale with the object that in case they have no food-grains to live on, they would at last resort to these vegetables for support.
34	Monghyr, 6th " "	Nil	The last week's desponding report was written up by hearsay during the Collector's absence in the district and is incorrect. The cold weather crops are looking generally very well, and with a little rain during the month there should be at least a good average crop. The exertions made by the Government to afford food and labor to those who need it is removing the general feeling of despondency which prevailed, and the grain-dealers have discovered that hoarding grain is not so profitable as selling their present stock and getting fresh supplies.
BHAGULPORE DIVN.			
35	Bhaugulpore, 9th* Dec. "	Nil	Weather fine and cold. Rice-cutting becoming general. Probable outturn not yet ascertainable. Cold weather crops still promise well. General health very good.
36	Purneah, 6th " "	Nil	No change in the character of the weather. The cutting of the winter rice crop has commenced all over the district. All along the north the crop has been much better than was expected, and importation has commenced from Nepal. The outturn in the four northern thannahs will not be less than six annas. All down the east, in the land usually flooded by the Mohanudi and Panar, the rice has failed. In Kusbah Amour and Kudbah, parts of the Sudder and Bulrampore, one-anna crop only has been cut. In Kishengunge, parts of Bulrampore and the Sudder, in Manihari and Gondwarah, about four annas. All along the Kosi in thannahs Dhamdaha and Raneegunge the yield has been good. Great loss has been caused here by rats and wild pigs which swarmed here this year; a ten-anna crop may be reaped. The mustard everywhere is fair. In the south of the district it is excellent. This is the great cold weather crop of the district. The koorthi pulse is good, also janera (millet) and arhur (pulse). Estimates of the quantity of wheat sown vary very much. Most has been sown in Gondwarah, Manihari, the sudder thannah, and Raneegunge. The seed has germinated fairly in most parts except Raneegunge, where it is said one-third has failed. The soil is here very sandy; on the whole fourteen annas has germinated; the north-east part of the district, where it is scarcely ever sown, it has been put down this year but in no

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BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)			
Bhagulpore Div.—(*Contd.*)			great quantity. The area cultivated with food-grains other than rice is probably half as much again as in ordinary years. Of this, if rain falls, a twelve-anna and, if none falls, a four anna crop may be expected. The Collector does not consider that more than 100 000 acres have been sown with cold weather food-grains. Prices have fallen slightly since last week in the station, but in the interior rice is daily harder to get. It is brought to the hâts in very small quantities; most people now only take one meal a day. The Kosi crop has been exported both to the other districts and to the east of this. In Kusbah Amour and Kudbah the scarcity is beginning to be scarcely felt.
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs, 6th Dec. 1873.	Nil	Getting colder; everywhere dew reported very scanty. In Deoghur the weather is normal. Nothing of importance is reported from Rajmehal sub-division Cold weather crop short. In the Dumka Daman about half the aghanee or late rice has been cut; half is on the ground still, and a best authority, with whom the Deputy Commissioner quite agrees, says that the best half is still to cut. The cold weather crop will be little or nothing except the *kodo* and the bajra, which is very good,—both a much better crop than was expected and a much more valuable addition. Teel (oil-seed) and mustard very bad. Surgooja (oil-seed) worse a good deal than expected. The late Agrahain and Poush crop is a good deal better than hoped.
ORISSA.			
Orissa Division. 38	Cuttack, 9th* Dec. 1873	·28	Slight drizzling rain general but not sufficient to affect crops, prospects of which remain good. Public health good.
39	Pooree, 29th Nov. „	32	Cloudy and rainy. Slight rain continued to the 29th November. Nearly three-fourths portion of the loghu or second rice crop has been reaped with fair yield. Late rice crop ripening well and prospects are good Average outturn expected. Cold weather crops growing and progressing, and will be improved by the light rain which has fallen and still continues, but heavy rain would seriously injure the ripening late rice as well as damage the promising cold weather crops. Purchases of rice for export to Calcutta and the south have commenced, and prices are consequently rising rapidly. Stocks good. Public health generally good. Fever continues to a small extent.
40	Balasore, 6th Dec. „	·6	Cloudy and cold weather, drizzling rain A good deal of paddy has already been cut, probably about eight annas. The present weather not considered favorable for cold weather crops at Jellasore and Ilabapal Prices rising throughout the district. Bhudruck sub-division.—Harvesting of paddy crop continues; the crop in some places is thin, with the exception of Sosah and parts of Dhammigore, the outturn will be on the whole moderate. Price of coarse rice has risen to Rs. 1-9 per maund.
CHOTA NAGPORE.			
	South-West Frontier Agency.		
41	Hazareebaugh, 6th Dec. 1873.	Nil	Weather variable; sometimes overcast at other times clear and cold No rain is reported to have fallen in any part of the district during the past week, notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the clouds. Crops much the same as last week; continued complaints of the want of rain from all parts are being received, and in addition to the fear from the drought, insects are reported to be injuring the young plants in the western portion of the district.
42	Lohardugga, 6th „ „	Nil	The clouds reported in last week have all dispersed, and it has been bright and clear, but not so cold as usual at this season. About one-fourth of the low land rice crop still remains to be cut; the outturn generally is estimated at from ten to eleven annas. The crops to the west and south have been better than those to the east. In some parts the surgoojah (oil-seed) crop promises very well and in others very badly off, but on the whole there will be a fair crop The latest reports from Palamow show that the rice crop is now being cut, and it is hoped that a six-anna crop generally may be obtained. The prospects of the cold weather crop are unfavorable; a very inconsiderable portion of land has been sown, and that sown urgently requires rain.
43	Singbhoom, 29th Nov 1873	Nil	Cloudy since the last three days, giving promise of rain; days cool and pleasant, nights cold. Colehan.—The harvest in this portion of the district has now been almost entirely reaped. The uplands all round have given about half a crop, but the outturn from the low lands has been more or less good. The extent of upland cultivation in the Colehan, however, greatly predominates over the low land In Seraikeyla, Porahat, and Kursewah, the greater part of the paddy has been already cut In all these places the outturn taken all round will be, it is expected, from 8 to 10 annas; in some few places more, up to 12 annas. In Dhalbhoom also a good deal of the paddy has been cut; the outturn all round is expected to be from 8 to 10 annas; in some parts much less 4 to 6 annas; whilst in some places it will be up to 12 annas. The cold weather crops in the Colehan have turned out very badly. The mustard and surgoojah (oil-seed) have been very great failures. The reports from Dhalbhoom and Seraikeyla also regarding the cold weather crops are very bad The yield is not expected to be more than one-fourth. If rain falls now, it will do good to the grain crops.
44	Manbhoom, 6th Dec. „	Nil	Cloudy, with every appearance of coming rain, but no rain has fallen; mornings and evenings cold, with a little dew The late rice has now been about half cut, and the outturn appears to be slightly better than was previously expected, probably a nine-anna crop all round may be housed. Sugarcane and koorthi (pulse) looking well in the western pergunnahs Barley and potatoes are coming up well.

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No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS			
45	Goalpara, 20th Nov. 1873	Nil	Cloudy, with cool breeze on the 27th and 29th November; the rest of the week clear, with strong north-easterly wind No improvement in the state of the late rice crop. The harvest of the paddy in progress, but the outturn on the average is not likely to exceed seven annas. The ploughing of land for the cultivation of Assu or early crops is retarded for want of rain. The state of mustard and other cold weather crops also is not good
46	Kamroop, 8th* Dec „	Nil	Mornings raw and misty; days clear, with cool north-east wind; nights clear, with heavy dews. Late rice is being reaped, but owing to the want of rain a full outturn is not expected. Sugarcane and mustard crops progressing favorably. Public health good.
47	Durrung, 29th Nov. „	Nil	No rain Daily range of temperature very high; strong north-east wind during the first half of the week, calm, cloudy, and threatening rain during the latter part No change in the state of the crops since last week Rice crop being reaped; certainly an eight-anna crop all round Prices little affected as yet. A good deal of fever about
48	Nowgong, „ „	Nil	Weather warm Sky clouded over and every indication of approaching rain before full moon The late rice crop has commenced to be cut and stored. The crop will on the whole be about an average one. Pulse crop poor Mustard doing fairly. Tea operations nearly over for the season. Two or three cases of small-pox of a mild form.
49	Seebsaugor, „ „	Nil	The weather continues unchanged The prospects of the rice crop continues the same as before. Harvesting has commenced, and should heavy rain fall, it will not do the rice crop any good, but rather injure it Mustard is backward for want of rain
50	Luckimpore, „ „	Nil	No rain during the week; weather much colder. Rain has been threatening for the last three days, but holds off The late rice crop is being reaped; probable outturn will be about two-thirds of an average year. The crops in the North Luckimpore sub-division are excellent The cold weather crops continue promising Public health much the same as last week.
51	Naga Hills, 22nd Nov. 1873	Nil	Weather delightfully cool and pleasant, although the midday sun is very fierce. The joom crops of the Rengmah Nagas have been cut and gathered in, and the outturn is said to be a very fair one indeed. The joom crops towards "Dwar Dissa" Mekir Hills are said to be as good as in the previous years if not better
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills, 29th Nov. 1873.	Nil	Bright sun in the early part of the week and cloudy for the last three days The whole of the rice crop in the upper hills has been gathered. The people are now busy getting in their Job's tears or corn crop. Murwah—millet, is doing well It would benefit by a little rain.
53	Garo Hills, 29th Nov. 1873.	Nil	Generally cloudy both night and day since 24th November, and chilly, but no rain has fallen In the village of Rongdugiri, situated in the valley of the Kalu river, the outturn of both cotton and rice is said to be far below the average, in Cheparagiri the pods, though small, were still numerous. The paddy throughout the hills has been stored No report of actual scarcity of food in any particular locality has been received Vegetables seem unaffected by the drought, as large quantities are brought for sale, and those seen in cultivation, especially at Dalmagiri (on the Kalu river) seem thriving well Price of rice is said to have fallen along the Mymensing and Garo Hills boundary. A greater quantity of rice has been brought to Tura by the inhabitants near the foot of the hills during the week.

* Telegram of the 8th December received on the 9th. Shows rainfall during the seven days including the 8th idem

Published for general information.

CALCUTTA, STATISTICAL DEPT.,
The 9th December 1873.

R. KNIGHT,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal

Govt. of {1873} Bengal.

STATISTICAL DEPT.

Progs. 1873.

File

No. B.

Statement showing rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops in the different districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 6th December 1873.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT
LIBRARY

PRICES-CURRENT of Food-grains and Salt in the under

Number.	DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY																				
		WHEAT			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			BUTRUSH MILLET—CUMBOO, BAJRA		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
	BENGAL.															
	Western Districts	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.
1	Burdwan	11 0	10 8	12 12	20 0	16 0	22 0	13 8	13 6	19 0	15 4	15 0	23 4	A 15 0	15 0	20 0
2	Bancoorah*															
3	Beerbhoom	10 0	10 0	12 0	...	...	...	10 8	10 8	16 0	14 4	13 8	21 0	...	...	...
4	Midnapore	10 0	10 0	10 10	...	...	...	B 14 0	14 0	18 0	B 19 8	20 0	26 0	...	...	...
5	Hooghly	10 12	11 0	12 8	...	...	...	9 4	9 0	13 0	12 8	11 8	18 0	...	...	...
	Howrah	12 0	12 0	14 0	...	...	...	10 10½	10 0	16 0	13 0	13 0	20 0	...	...	...
	Central Districts.															
	Calcutta†	11 0	...	...	18 0	...	...	8 14	...		12 13	...	...	...	...	...
6	24-Pergunnahs	...	...	12 0	...	...	20 0	8 12	8 12	8 0	C 11 14	13 5	18 12	...	...	...
7	Nuddea	11 7	11 7	14 8	20 0	20 0	32 0	11 7	11 7	16 0	D 15 8 12 3	13 5	17 12	...	...	...
8	Jessore	11 0	11 0	13 5	...	...	...	E 12 8	12 8	17 12	E 18 4	16 0	26 10	...	...	...
9	Moorshedabad	12 0	12 0	16 0	...	...	...	11 0	12 0	14 0	12 0	13 0	20 0	F 19 0	18 0	28 0
10	Dinagepore	11 0	11 0	12 0	14 8	16 0	32 8	12 8	12 8	20 0	14 8	14 8	27 8	...	...	...
11	Maldah	12 8	12 0	18 0	24 0	25 0	35 0	11 8	11 8	21 0	12 8	12 8	22 0	20 0	20 0	22 0
12	Rajshahye	10 8	11 4	15 0	24 0	24 0	30 0	12 0	12 0	15 0	13 8	13 8	24 0	...	...	...
13	Rungpore	10 2	9 7	11 5	...	...	...	11 4	11 2	15 0	14 1	14 0	30 0	...	...	...
[illegible]	Bograh	12 8	12 0	12 0	...	...	...	9 12	9 12	10 0	G 15 0	15 12	34 0	...	...	...
15	Pubna	14 4	15 0	15 0	...	...	...	9 12	11 4	12 0	15 12	16 0	30 0	...	...	...
16	Darjeeling	5 0	5 0	6 0	3 0	4 0	10 0	5 0	5 0	12 0	10 0	8 0	14 0	...	...	...
17	Julpigoree	9 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	13 0	13 0	...	16 0	16 0	...	...	...	...
	Cooch Behar*															
	Eastern Districts.															
18	Dacca	10 8	10 8	13 5	21 8	18 0	20 0	12 0	13 0	21 0	14 0	14 0	32 0	...	...	...
19	Furreedpore	14 0	16 0	20 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	10 0	16 0	17 0	21 0	...	...	...
20	Backergunge	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 12	11 0	17 8	15 8	14 14	27 8	...	...	...
21	Mymensing	10 0	10 0	12 0	...	[illegible]	...	13 0	13 0	20 0	17 0 / B / 18 0	17 0	29 0	...	...	...
22	Sylhet‡	8 0	8 0	11 0	7 0	7 0	...	12 4	13 0	25 8	19 4	17 8	38 0	...	...	...
23	Cachar‡	8 10	9 2	9 2	...	...	...	13 5	13 5	16 0	17 12	17 12	29 1	...	...	...
24	Chittagong‡	8 0	8 0	14 0	...	...	...	14 0	15 0	17 0	20 0	20 0	22 0	...	...	...
25	Noakhally‡	...	...	...	...	...	...	I 13 0	16 0	18 0	I 17 0	18 0	24 0	...	...	...
26	Tipperah	9 0	9 0	12 0	...	...	...	14 8	16 0	20 0	15 to 16	17 12 to 18 13	32 8	...	...	...
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts‡	...	...	...		...	...	13 5	13 13	14 8	13 13	16 0	16 0	...	...	...
	Hill Tipperah‡	...	...	10 6	...	...	...	13 3	14 5	26 6	20 0	17 7	40 0	...	...	...

* Return not received.
† First return.
A In Jehanabad sub-division.
B New rice.
C Price of common rice on 3rd December in sub-division ranged from 12-8 to 18 seers per rupee.
D Coarse rice used by the poorest class.
E Price of best rice in the interior ranges from 11 to 14 seer per rupee and that of common rice from 13 to 20 seer per rupee.

mentioned districts of Bengal on the 6th December 1873.

THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire-wood.			Salt.			DISTRICTS.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year	
																		BENGAL.
																		Western Districts.
S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S Ch.	S Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S Ch	S. Ch	S Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 8	14 0	21 0	90 0	90 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	Burdwan.
																		Bancoorah.*
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 4	11 4	22 0	210 0	240 0	...	8 12	8 12	8 8	Beerbhoom.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 4	13 6	18 0	180 0	180 0	180 0	8 4	8 4	8 8	Midnapore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 8	13 0	20 8	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	Hooghly.
...			...	...	...	...	...	...	14 8	14 8	20 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	Howrah.
																		Central Districts.
10 0	...	...	...	...	...	16 14	...	...	13 5	...	...	110 0	...		8 14			Calcutta †
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 0	13 5	17 12	100 0	100 0	...	8 12	8 12	8 3	24-Pergunnahs.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 4	15 4	26 10	120 0	120 0	...	8 10½	8 10½	8 14	Nuddea.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	15 4	20 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 14	8 0	8 0	Jessore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	27 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 4	9 0	8 12	Moorshedabad.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 4	10 12	20 0	160 0	98 7	...	7 8	7 8	7 8	Dinagepore.
...	...	...	16 0	16 0	24 0	22 0	24 0	26 0	13 0	13 0	20 0	160 0	160 0	140 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	Maldah.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 8	13 8	.	400 0	320 0	...	8 2½	8 2½	...	Rajshahye.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 4	11 4	16 5	128 0	107 0	120 0	7 8	7 8	7 6	Rungpore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 0	12 0	12 0	60 0	60 0	60 0	7 8	7 8	8 0	Bograh
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 8	18 12	26 4	200 0	200 0	...	8 4	8 4	8 4	Pubna.
...	...	...	8 0	8 0	13 0	16 0	16 0	18 0	6 12	7 0	8 0	200 0	200 0	200 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	Darjeeling
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	...	160 0	160 0	...	6 5	7 0		Julpigoree
																		Cooch Behar *
																		Eastern Districts.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	10 10	21 0	80 0	80 0	...	8 1 5	8 8	8 9	Dacca.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 0	15 0	20 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Furreedpore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	H 7 to 16	11 to 16	...	160 0	160 0	...	8 8	8 8	8 8	Backergunge.
...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	9 0	9 [illegible]	17 0	...	...	...	8 4	8 4	8 8	Mymensing
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	13 8	19 4	107 0	107 0	...	8 8	8 8	7 0	Sylhet ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	10 10	15 4	64 0	64 0	64 0	8 0	8 6	7 4	Cachar ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 8	11 8	16 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	8 0	8 0	8 8	Chittagong ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	14 0	280 0	280 0	...	7 8	7 8	8 0	Noakhally ‡
...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	9 8	10 11	18 0	...	...	...	8 12	8 8	9 0	Tipperah.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320 0	320 0	...	7 4	7 4	7 4	Chittagong Hill Tracts ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	11 4	J 12 0	12 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Hill Tipperah ‡

‡ Return for week ending 29th November 1873 received after the publication of the last *Gazette*.
F In Jungipore sub-division.
G Highest price of rice at outlying station was 12 seer and lowest price 14-14 per rupee
H At sub-divisions and the interior
I In the interior of this district the price of best rice ranges from 13 to 18 seers and of common rice 16 to 20 seers per rupee.
J Bundles.

PRICES-CURRENT of Food-grains and Salt in the undermentioned

Number.	DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY																	
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON			BULBUSH MILLET—CUMBOO RAJRA.		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
	BEHAR.															
28	Patna	16 4	14 0	24 0	18 8	17 0	31 4	12 0	11 8	...	14 8	14 0	21 0	...	...	..
29	Gya	10 8	10 8	15 0	12 8	15 0	32 0	9 0	8 8	12 0	10 8	10 8	19 8		...	...
30	Shahabad	14 0	12 0	15 0	18 0	15 8	30 0	12 4	11 8	11 0	14 0	13 0	10 0	K 17 0	17 0	25 0
31	Tirhoot	10 0	10 0	14 0	18 0	16 0	20 0	10 8	10 8	16 0	12 0	12 0	18 0	..	...	...
32	Sarun	12 8	12 0	14 8	18 0	17 4	32 0	9 0	9 0	15 0	12 0	12 0	20 0	..	...	...
33	Chumparun	11 0	11 0	16 0	20 0	20 0	34 0	9 0	9 0	12 0	13 0	13 0	27 0	...	.	...
34	Monghyr	13 6	12 6	18 9	21 0	22 0	34 6	9 4	8 4	14 7	13 6	12 6	18 9	...	...	...
35	Bhaugulpore	12 10	12 10	16 6	20 3	20 8	24 0	10 1	10 1	15 2	11 8	12 10	17 11	.	...	...
36	Purneah	11 0	11 0	17 0	..	...	B 40 0	12 10 9 0	9 0	25 0	13 4 10 0	9 5	27 0	.	...	.
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs	11 0	11 0	14 0	K 18 0	18 0	22 0	12 8	11 0	16 0	14 0	14 0	21 0	20 0	20 0	30 0
	ORISSA															
38	Cuttack†	13 2	13 2	15 12	...	...	..	17 1	17 1	19 11	23 10	23 10	34 2	..	.	..
39	Pooree†	11 13	11 13	17 1	...	...	...	18 6	21 0	23 10	24 4	27 9	32 13	..	...	...
40	Balasore	12 0	12 0	12 0	...			14 0	14 0	16 0	16 0	17 0	32 0	..	...	...
	CHOTA NAGPORE *South-West Frontier Agency.*															
41	Hazareebaugh	..	.	..	10 0	10 0	16 8	16 0	.	20 0	8 0	12 0	12 0	13 8	13 0	18 8	...	..	...
42	Lohardugga	11 0	11 0	11 0	15 0		19 0	13 0	10 0	22 0	17 0	16 8	24 0	...	..	...
43	Singbhoom†	14 0	14 0	18 0	20 0	20 0	...	16 0	15 0	32 0	24 0	20 0	36 0	..	...	...
44	Maunbhoom	10 8	10 8	14 0	K 20 to 24	20 to 24	20 to 30	14 0	16 0	24 0	16 0	17 0	26 0	30 0	30 0	40 0
	ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.															
45	Goalpara†	1 0	12 0	16 0	..	..	...	12 0	11 0	12 0	13 0	12 0	20 0	.	...	...
46	Kamroop†	7 0	13 0	16 0	...	...	...	10 8	10 0	16 0	12 0	13 0	20 0	...		.
47	Durrung†	9 0	10 0	10 0	..	..	..	10 0	10 0	13 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	..	...	...
48	Nowgong†	16 0	16 0	16 0		..		11 0	11 0	13 0	16 0	16 0	20 0	...	..	..
49	Seebsagor†	..	...	13 0	.	..	16 0	8 0	8 0	14 0	12 0	14 0	20 0	..	...	...
50	Luckimpore†	8 0	8 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	5 8	6 0	7 0	11 0	10 0	13 8	.	...	...
51	Naga Hills.*															
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills†	..	..	...	.		.	9 0	8 0	12 0	12 0	10 0	13 8	...	...	...
53	Garo Hills *															

B New rice.
K In the interior
* Return not received.

CALCUTTA,
The 9th December 1873

districts of Bengal on the 6th December 1873.—(Continued.)

THE SIER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire wood			Salt.			DISTRICTS
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
																		BEHAR.
...	..	.	.	.	.	19 0	17 0	34 8	19 8	17 0	34 8	140 0	140 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Patna.
K	...	.	16 0	16 0	40 0	14 8	14 8	31 0	18 8	13 0	26 0	160 0	160 0	...	7 0	7 0	7 8	Gya.
17 4	16 0	30 0	K 11 0	11 0	..	16 8	17 0	29 0	16 0	16 0	29 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Shahabad.
...	...	.	19 0	17 0	...	16 0	17 0	...	15 0	15 0	22 8	140 0	140 0	...	7 12	7 12	7 8	Tirhoot.
20 0	16 0	33 0	18 0	20 0	..	18 0	17 8	...	16 0	16 0	27 0	180 0	180 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Sarun.
..	...	..	21 0	21 0	40 0	20 0	20 0	35 0	16 0	16 0	30 0	..	..		7 4	7 4	7 4	Chumparun.
.	..	...	...	..	...	16 8	15 7	39 3	16 2	15 7	33 6	117 0	147 0	..	7 8	7 5	8 4	Monghyr.
..	...	...	..	..	..	17 0	17 0	39 0	15 2	15 12	27 12	176 12	176 12	104 2	8 3	8 3	8 3	Bhangulpore.
..	...	...	..	..	...		..	...	12 0	12 0	22 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	Purneah.
..	...	...	25 0	30 0	..	20 0	20 0	40 0	15 0	15 0	20 0	480 0	480 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Sonthal Pergunnahs.
																		ORISSA.
...	...	...	14 7	14 0	..	...	...	..	26 4	27 0	22 5	200 0	200 0	...	9 2	9 2	8 0	Cuttack †
...	...	..	...	...	.	...	...	..	23 10	23 10	21 0	105 0	105 0	...	8 8	9 0	8 8	Pooree †
...	...	...	...	.	...	..	..	..	10 0	10 0	10 0	280 0	280 0	...	7 0	7 0	0 0	Balasore
																		CHOTA NAGPORE *South-West Frontier Agency.*
...	...	..	20 0	19 0	...	18 0	18 0	30 0	13 0	13 0	24 0	240 0	320 0	..	7 0	7 0	7 8	Hazareebaugh.
...	...	..	32 0	...	...	20 0	16 0	33 0	12 0	13 0	16 0	180 0	160 0	...	6 12	6 12	6 8	Lohardugga.
...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	16 0	16 0	18 0	320 0	320 0	..	5 8	4 8	6 0	Singbhoom.†
.	...	..	...	..	...	30 0	22 0	75 0	13 0	13 0	18 0	280 0	320 0	320 0	7 8	7 8	7 8	Manbhoom.
																		ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.
...	..	...	...	...	...	...		...	12 0	12 0	8 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 8	8 0	Goalpara.†
...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	8 0	10 0	13 0	.	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Kamroop †
...	...	..	.	..	..	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	200 0	200 0	..	6 8	6 8	7 0	Durrung.†
...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	10 0	...	...	...	6 8	6 8	6 8	Nowgong.†
..	.	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	8 0	8 0	8 0	120 0	120 0	...	6 8	6 8	6 0	Seebsaugor.†
	...	...	..	...	...	10 0	4 0	...	8 0	7 0	9 0	200 0	160 0	160 0	6 8	6 0	6 0	Luckimpore.†
																		Naga Hills.*
...	.	...	.	..	..	..	..	..	6 4	8 4	8 0	160 0	160 0	...	5 8	5 4	5 0	Khasi and Jynteah Hills.†
																		Garo Hills *

K In the interior.
* Return not received.

Published for general information.

R. KNIGHT,
Asst Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 53PS, dated Calcutta, the 6th December 1873.

From—The Offg Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department,
To—A. Colvin, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Allahabad.

With reference to the Government of India orders No. 3544, dated 6th December, defining the conditions under which you are to be allowed to purchase grain on behalf of this Government, and which have been communicated to the Government, North-Western Provinces, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to buy for the Government of Bengal, through the trade in the manner prescribed by the Government of India, the undermentioned grains in quantities, and subject to the conditions specified below :—

(1) All grain to be delivered at railway stations in the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions; but the limits of price given below to apply to grain up to Allahabad only; all charges for railway fare beyond Allahabad to be paid by the Bengal Government; and the cost of bags to be settled by Mr. Colvin, over and above the limit of price placed, as by clause 3 below.

(2) All grain to be packed securely in gunny bags, and no bag to weigh more than two maunds net: smaller bags are preferred; and all grain to be delivered at stations of the East Indian Railway before the end of December 1873.

(3) Limit of price at Allahabad to be—

	Rs.	A.	P.	
For wheat	3	12	0	per maund.
„ jowar	3	0	0	„
„ barley	3	4	0	„

(4) Quantity of each grain to be—

	Mds
Wheat	50,000
Barley	50,000
Jowar	50,000

(5) If quantities asked for of wheat or jowar cannot be got at the price named, the deficit may be made up by extra purchases of barley within the limit assigned for barley.

2. I am to add that the limits given above are outside limits, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that much of the grain may be bought at prices within the limits named above. This order, I am to explain, is over and above the orders already sent to the North-Western Provinces by the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore.

— — —

No. 54PS.

Copy, with copy of the Government of India letter, to the Commissioner of Patna for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Calcutta,
The 6th December 1873.

W. E. B.

RESOLUTION.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

Calcutta, the 11*th December* 1873.

READ—

The first set of Fortnightly Narratives received from distressed districts of the Patna Division, bringing the history of affairs down to the 29th November 1873.

Date of receipt of the reports :—

Patna	3rd December.
Gya	4th "
Shahabad	8th "
Tirhoot	4th "
Sarun	4th "
Chumparun	7th "

1.—The Lieutenant-Governor is much obliged to the district officers of the Patna division. They have for the most part punctually touched upon most of the important points connected with the impending scarcity, and have shown that preparations of all kinds are being promptly and intelligently made. Another time he would wish to have the Shahabad report more punctually, especially as the Magistrate-Collector has his head-quarters on the railway line. The Magistrate-Collector of Chumparun must be good enough to be specially punctual in sending off his fortnightly reports, as his district is far from the railway.

2. It would seem that up to the end of November food was neither very scarce nor excessively dear in the whole division; barley and maize certainly are as yet nowhere at or near famine prices. In Patna, Gya, Shahabad, and Sarun, the prospect of the crops may perhaps be a little better than had at first been feared; in Tirhoot the prospect is much as before; in Chumparun things are certainly not improving; but happily that district has the benefit of the efforts of very public spirited men. It is quite clear that up to the 1st December there was no unusual demand for labour, and no apparent pressure on the people anywhere except in Sarun.

But, as is observed by Mr. Halliday, "the real pressure when it arrives will probably show itself suddenly." In view of this probability it is satisfactory to find that preparations for relief works are so well advanced in Patna, Gya, Sarun, and Chumparun. The Tirhoot narrative is wanting in information on this important point; and the Lieutenant-Governor begs Mr. Halliday's attention to the need for giving fuller details in his next narrative. Judging from the reports, the Tirhoot arrangements seem to be more backward than those of other districts in the division.

3. The arrangements for grain store-houses appear to be in a satisfactory state of advance everywhere, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the supply of local carriage will prove as sufficient for all wants as the local officers anticipate. He trusts that during the present month no effort will be spared to utilise and to try the carriage of the country to the utmost; the whole of the grain provided being carried to the centres, where it will be eventually wanted, and not left at river-side or railway stations. Very special attention is requested to this instruction. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Mangles advert to the question of providing fodder for cattle on the chief routes; the Lieutenant-Governor begs that other officers will not lose sight of this requirement.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad that so many planters have come forward to import grain and help in its distribution; he is sure that their aid will be of much value to the country and to Government officers. Sir George Campbell hopes that more may be done shortly in the way of land improvements under advances from the Government treasury; he fears that the seven years' lease (ticcadaree) system, so prevalent in North Behar, may be against such improvements, and that the sub-divided estates in Tirhoot can hardly afford to borrow much. Still it may be possible that village land-owners and headmen, petty landholders, and even ryots will, on all occasions like the present, wish to spend money on tanks and wells; and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that all such private efforts may be promoted and encouraged. The narratives are silent as to any relief works proposed or contemplated by municipal bodies.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor congratulates the Commissioner of Patna on the forward state of his arrangements which these narratives evince.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3905.

COPY, with copies of the district reports, forwarded to—

The Commissioner of the Patna Division.

The Magistrates, Patna, Gya, Shahabad, Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun.

And one copy to Commissioners of Rajshahye and Bhaugulpore Divisions, and to Mr. Robinson for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 11th December 1873.

W. E. H.

No. 50, dated Bankipore, the 30th November 1873.

From—A. C. Mangles, Esq., Collector of Patna,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In forwarding my first weekly narrative, as called for in your circular letter No. 80 of the 17th instant, I have the honor to submit as follows.

A.—State of the Country.

1. The bazars generally throughout the district are abundantly supplied, and with the exception of a rise in prices owing to the bad harvest and the merchants keeping back their stores, there is nothing to show the anticipated famine as far as the markets are concerned.

2. The principal marts taken for the purposes of this narrative are Patna, Barh, Behar, and Dinapore. At the former the following rates prevail:—

Rice	14 seers.
Maize	17 „
Wheat	14 „
Barley	17 „
Gram	17 „
At Barh—	
Rice is from	11 to 11½ „
Maize	15½ „
Wheat	12 „
Barley	16 „
Gram	14¾ „
Cheena	20 „
Murwah	19 „

At Behar rice is selling from 10 to 15 seers the rupee, the cheapest sort being the new rice which is still quite damp and almost unfit for food; gram is 16 seers and janera 17.

No information has yet been received from the sub-divisional officer of Dinapore, but the rates there are generally the same as those prevailing in the sudder station. Towards the south and south-west of the sudder sub-division the prevailing rates are higher than at the sudder station itself; but having been through that part of the country only yesterday, I did not find the rates so high as to call for any interference on the part of Government as yet.

3. It has been found impossible to collect any accurate information as to what the amount of grain stored in the district really is; but no doubt that both zemindars and traders have large amounts stored away which they are keeping back in many instances in hopes of higher prices.

The small cultivators as a rule I believe have no such stores, though many of those who, holding small shares in the villages, still cultivate land of their own have to some extent.

4. We have had no rainfall during the week under report.

5. In the sudder sub-division the rice crop, taken generally, is not estimated at more than half an anna as compared with an average year. The other three khurreef crops—bajra, joar, and bhirgee—have yielded fairly well along the banks of the Soane and Pooppoon rivers. It is estimated that more than half of the rubbee lands have been already sown, and there is still time to sow the rest if we have rain within the next fifteen days. In those that have been sown the seed has germinated well, and we have a good crop on the ground if we can only keep it; but catterpillars in many places have already made their appearance, and it is much feared that what they leave will die off for want of rain.

Poppy cultivation is doing fairly well, the young plants being irrigated by means of well water.

The sub-divisional officer of Barh writes that the cold weather crops generally throughout his sub-division look promising, but he also complains of catterpillars which he says chiefly attack the young wheat plants.

From Behar it is reported that the rice crop will be fully one-third of an average year; that half the rubbee lands have been sown and the seeds germinated well. Catterpillars are here also complained of, but it is reported that if rain falls we shall have an 8-anna crop all round.

6. No cases of misery or starvation have come to light as yet, nor do I believe that there are any such cases. Petty cultivators and laborers are having a hard time of it, but owing to local fund works generally throughout the district having been started, they can always find relief should they require it.

7. At this time of the year the number of grain thefts is always in excess of that of any other, and considering the shortness of the crops, I think that the number in excess of ordinary years is very slight. During the past week no grain robberies were reported, and only twenty cases of theft, most of them of a very petty nature, such as cutting a few handfuls of standing crops, and in none of them did the value of the property stolen exceed Rs. 48.

8. I am not aware of any tract of the country deserving of special report, and I would therefore only say that owing to the south of the district being the rice-producing part of it, I shall look there for distress to first make its appearance, unless, as I said before, we have rain to allow of the remaining rubbee lands being sown and afford work to the laboring classes.

B.—Relief Works

9. No relief works have been started as yet, no occasion having been found for them. The local fund works generally throughout this district have been taken in hand, but as yet have not attracted more laborers than in ordinary years. Relief works have been decided upon and consist for the most part of raising already existing roads, and in fact are no more than an extension of the local fund works. The Commissioner has already accorded his sanction to the expenditure of Rs. 25,000 on such works, so that when the local fund works in any locality come to a standstill, and we find the demand still existing for work, we can carry on by means of this extra grant.

On the nine local works already in progress in the sudder and Dinapore sub-divisions the number of laborers employed at any one of them has never exceeded 244 on any one day, and has been as low as 34.

C.—Transport of Food.

10. The following figures will show the importation of important food-grain by railway and by river during the past week for the whole district:—

	Rice.	Janera.	Wheat, oat, and barley.	Other grains.
By railway	62,888	2,929	11,761	20,580
By river	2,668	3,926	69	555
Total ..	65,556	6,855	11,830	21,135

11. So far as our own district is concerned, I have no fear whatever of the means of transport failing us, they being, I am of opinion, quite equal to all our requirements, but till I know what Gya will want, it is impossible for me to say what my requirements will be, and therefore I am unable to report on the sufficiency or insufficiency of the means I have at my disposal.

A zemindar and ex-darogah of police have volunteered to undertake the transport business in the sudder sub-division, and from his knowledge of the district, its people, and its capabilities, his services will be invaluable in this capacity. Mr. White, the Deputy Magistrate of Barh, has appointed chowdharies at Barh, Mokameh, and Buckteapore, taking recognizances from them to supply 100 carts at each place at 48 hours' notice, and hopes to be able to do the same at Futwah. For river transport we have found no difficulty as yet, though large quantities of grain have already been sent to Govindgunge in the Chumparun district; the boats being supplied by Beharee Singh, the chief tieendar of the Ganges ghâts in this district. The Behar Deputy Magistrate reports that pack-bullocks are the only means of transport in his sub-division, and that of them he has an abundance everywhere. I am now engaged in

sending 2,000 maunds of rice to Behar, and hope to be able to report the result of our first land transport arrangement in my next fortnightly narrative.

I am now busying myself in collecting fodder to be placed at the different halting stations along the lines of road, and will duly report progress under this head also.

No blocks have as yet been reported, nor have any special arrangements been made or agencies started beyond those given above.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

12. For the sudder sub-division Patna Ghât Station, Bankipore, Behta, Taranaggar, Paleegung, Massourhee, Pahebra, and Lakhna, have been selected at present as places in which to store grain. At the Patna Ghât Station godowns have been rented capable of holding a lakh of maunds at a rental of Rs. 250 a month, including the services of an experienced goladar.

At Bankipore we have the Government golah. At Behta a house capable of containing from 10 to 12,000 maunds has been obtained free of rent, whilst at Taranaggar, Paleegung, Pahebra, and Lakhna, the different zemindars of those places who reside in the localities have agreed to find storing-rooms. At Massourhee there is a large serai, part of which, I am of opinion, might be converted into a store godown, and I will see to this directly.

The sub-divisional officer of Barh has selected Barh, Mokameh, Buktearpore, Futwah, Saksourah, Sarmegrah, Harnout, and Maxudpore, as grain centres for his sub-division At Barh he has secured on abandoned saltpetre godown on the river bank capable of holding 50,000 maunds free of rent. At Mokameh he has also obtained a golah free of rent capable of holding 30,000 maunds. At Buktearpore he has found it necessary to construct one, and as this will be the point from which all grain will have to be imported to Behar and the eastern portion of the Gya district, he is making it large enough to contain 80,000 maunds.

At Futwah he is at present in treaty for a golah, and will report regarding it, as also what arrangements he makes in the other four villages as soon as possible.

The Behar Deputy Magistrate has selected Behar, Silas, Hilsa, Attaserai, Asthawan, and Nurserai, as his centres, where he proposes hiring golahs in the course of the next week.

13. Except at the Patna Ghât Station, where, as I said before, the services of a goladar have been retained, and where also the Government sanction has been obtained to the employment of an overseer on a salary of Rs. 200 a month, no arrangements have been made for the custody and administration of the other golahs, no grain having as yet been sent to them.

On the 22nd instant 2,000 maunds Backergunge rice were received at the Patna Ghât Station, on the 23rd 1,300 bags of Burmah rice, weighing 3,493 maunds, and on the 27th 3,475 bags of Burmah rice out of a consignment of 3,500 bags said to have been despatched from Calcutta, of which quantity the 1,300 bags were despatched to Govindgunge on the 27th, and arrangements are being made for sending off the rest also to Govindgunge, while the 2,000 maunds of Bengal rice are being sent to Behar. No empty bags have been received as yet. With regard to the sufficiency of the Government stock and the arrangements for increasing it I can say nothing, as the Commissioner has made no specific grant for this district, but will meet its requirements from the general supply.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

14. Rs. 5,000 has, with the Commissioner's sanction, been given under the provisions of clause A, paragraph 4, of the Circular under notice to each of two zemindars in the sudder sub-division, but as this loan has only just been made, no results can as yet be given.

No advances have been made to municipalities or to private parties for land improvement, no applications having been made for such.

F.—Charitable Relief.

15. No relief has yet been commenced upon, but arrangements are being made for the selection of suitable places for such centres should necessity arise

but should we have a fair rubbee crop, I am in hopes that no charitable relief will be called for, but in the meantime I am preparing a map for the district as required by paragraph 18.

FINANCIAL RESULT OF THE WEEK.

	Rs.
16. Paid to Baboo Gobind Chandra Banerjea, the officer in charge of the Government golah, on account of transport charges for sending Burmah rice to Govindgunge	1,700
Remitted to the sub-divisional officer of Barh on account of transport charges	1,000
Total ...	2,700
Advanced to the two zemindars above mentioned for purchasing grain	10,000
Grand Total ...	12,700

17. Should the Dinapore sub-divisional officer's report contain any information of value, I will forward it to you on receipt.

D. E. J.

No. 7C, dated Camp Daoodnuggur, the 1st December 1873.

From—A. V. PALMER, Esq., Collector of Gya,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Famine Department.

As directed in your Circular No. 80 of 17th ultimo, I have the honor to submit my first weekly Narrative of scarcity and relief in Gya district, for the week ending Saturday, 29th November 1873.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. Prices generally throughout the district have somewhat declined. The bazars have been well supplied, partly owing to large quantities of rice imported by private traders (chiefly I understand from Calcutta) to the railway stations of Bihta, Bankipore, and Buktearpore, on the East Indian Railway, and partly to the knowledge that Government is prepared to import grain, and thereby inducing those who had any store above their actual requirements, to send it into the local market whilst prices remained high.

3. A copy of the description and prices of grain obtaining at the principal grain marts of this district has been submitted on the 29th ultimo from the sudder station.

4. I have made inquiries through various sources to ascertain whether any, and if so, what proximate quantity and description of grain remained in stock.

5. My information confirms what I have already reported, viz. that speaking generally there is no large stock of grain in the district. Some few zemindars, such as those marginally noted, have a small stock of rice, but the prices which rule in the bazars are influenced almost entirely by the daily importation. There has been no rain during the past month.

Mohunt of Bodh Gya.
Baboo Dindyal of Heasoon.

6. From what I have personally seen, and from the fuller reports that I have now received from my sub-divisional officers, I am inclined to the opinion that the food prospects are not as bad as I was in the first instance led to believe. Doubtless the rice crop throughout the district has, generally speaking, been a failure; but I believe there is no extensive tract altogether denuded of rice, and my own experience is that whenever the ryots themselves have really made an effort to save a crop they have to a great extent succeeded. The Soane water to the west of the district has irrigated a large tract of country, 2,000 beegahs, and has been in time, I understand, to save some large tracts of rice, and import sufficient moisture for rubbee sowings.

7. The rubbee crops have germinated fairly, and, if not strong, are, up to the present, healthy and well. Wheat and barley are particularly looking well.

8. There is no distress in the district to the best of my belief.

9. One case was reported by the Nowada Sub-Deputy, and I immediately desired the sub-divisional officer to proceed to the spot and report. He reports that the locality mentioned was in particularly good case, having heavy crops of rice and the rubbee well up. That he made inquiries of the villagers, who assured him there was a mistake.

10. His conclusion is that the Sub-Deputy had met with an itinerant professional beggar, and had mistaken him for an inhabitant of the village I may here mention that I have to receive with great caution reports from these officers. I find they are very fond of travelling about in palkees, wrapped up in rezaies, and instead of reporting from what they see, reporting from what they hear from any ryot they may happen to question during intervals of sleep.

11. The ryots are now employed in drawing water from wells, carrying water to their fields, and are still sowing rubbee crops.

12. There have been no special grain thefts or robberies that call for remark, or indicate pressure of food.

B.—Relief Works.

13. Ordinary earth-work repairs have been commenced on the district roads marginally noted. I have desired the officer in charge to inform me immediately that persons above the ordinary beldars and coolie class apply for work. I believe this to be the best criterion of real distress.

Daoodnuggur Road.
Nowada "
Gopalgunge "
Futtehpore "
Surbada "

14. The Borean and Bihta road of the west, and Behar to Rajowlee to the east, are ready for the employment of laborers when necessary.

15. A new line from Jehanabad to Hoolasgunge has been already laid out by a centre line, and this is now being done on the roads marginally noted, and should be reported completed in ten days' time. It has not been necessary as yet to open relief works, but work is ready when the time arrives, and the ordinary district road repairs afford sufficient employment.

Ruffigunge to Myabigha.
Daoodnuggur to Obra.
Nowada to Pukreebarwan.
Nowada to Warishgunge.

C.—Transport of Food.

16. On the first point it is impossible for me to give any reliable information. The fact of the slight decline in prices shows that the supply has been ample. I have every reason to believe that the means of transport within the district, *i.e.*, bullock carts and bullocks, is ample and sufficient. I gather this from those whom I have consulted, from the large quantities of carts and Beparees plying at this season, and from the moderate rates at which this mode of transport can be procured. I have a full belief that the resources of the district will be sufficient for the transport of Government grain from railway to food centres, and I would prefer employing this to any outside agency, which would only give us so many more mouths to feed.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

17. I propose in the first instance to store grain at Gya, Jehanabad, Nowada, and Urwul.

18. With the exception of Gya, the other localities will be centres of works, and from which supplies, if required, can be easily poured out where required.

19. Sub-divisional officers are looking out for suitable houses on hire to use as golas. Should they not be successful, a contingency I do not anticipate, kutcha golas will be at once constructed.

20. When filled it will be necessary to employ an establishment as per margin at each gola.

One mohurir on Rs 6.
Two watchmen at Rs. 3-8 each.

21. The Commissioner has kindly consented to supply grain.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

22. I regret to say I have but little to report on this head. Traders and private individuals alike appear frightened at the condition to get the grain from a distance. I have however arranged with Mr. Chordan of Seepa Factory, the only European non-official in the district, to convey from Bihta station and house at Urwul 25,000 maunds of food grain, which the Commissioner of Patna has been asked to provide.

F.—Charitable Relief.

23. Relief operations have not as yet, I am happy to say, been required.

24. I propose shortly to make the arrangements indicated in paragraph 18; but up to the present I have been altogether engaged in the more important matter of diverting the Soane water in directions where it would benefit a large portion of the agricultural community instead of the pockets of a few zemindars.

G.—Financial Results.

25. I am unable, being away from head-quarters, to supply information under this head, but to the best of my belief there have been as yet no disbursements.

REFERRING TO PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE CIRCULAR.

26. The works marginally* noted are, strictly speaking, the relief works proposed, but to these may be supplemented the following works (*vide* margin†) which will *de facto* be relief works, and which were intended to have been commenced by the District Road Committee this year.

* Nowada to Morishgunje.
Baroon to Bihta.
Jehanabad to Hoobesgunje.

† Ruffigunje to Myabijher.
Daoodnuggur to Obra.
Behar to Rajowlie.
Nowada to Pukreebarwan.

27. The establishment I ask for is very small, viz. a duffadar on Rs. 10 per mensem at each section of road where work is going on, and an overseer to visit each work and measure the work done.

28. It is impossible for me at present to state what the monthly expenditure may be. Every thing depends on the number of works it may be found necessary to start; whether 1, 2 or 3 feet of earth-work is placed thereon; the number and condition of the work-people employed.

REFERRING TO PARAGRAPH 14.

29. The supplies I propose to bring from the three railway stations—Bihta, Bankipore, and Buktearpore.

30. From these stations there are fair roads running directly south into the Gya district, and with the exception of one portion of the Buktearpore and Behar road, which lies in the Patna district, and regarding which I have no information, the other roads are available for cart traffic during all seasons of the year.

31. I have already stated that I believe the district is able to supply a sufficiency of carts and bullocks, and if not, these could be supplied from Patna and Hazareebaugh.

AS REGARDS THE SUPPLY OF FODDER FOR CATTLE.

32. I am given to understand that if we employ the cattle of the country, it will be unnecessary to provide fodder, inasmuch as the cart and bullock owners will make their own arrangements for feeding their cattle.

33. I propose however to collect rice straw that has not arrived at maturity, and make it into stocks at Jahanabad, Nowada, and Gya, as central depôts.

D. E. J.

No. 1897, dated Arrah, the 5th December 1873.

From—H. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., Collector of Shahabad,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I HAVE the honor to submit the weekly narrative called for in Government Circular No. 80, dated the 17th November.

2. I regret that this report has not been submitted with strict punctuality, but my work has been somewhat interfered with, as I was suddenly called in from the south of my district on Monday last to make arrangements for the intended visit of the Viceroy to Dehri. The next narrative will be despatched on the date fixed.

(A.)—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

3. At present there seems to be no scarcity of supply in the bazars. I have been over a considerable part of my district during the last month, and have noticed that the different marts were apparently well stocked.

During the month of November 1873, 227,271 maunds of rice and other food-grains have come into the district by the stations along the line of railway, being up and down imports, the former being slightly in excess of the latter. I have noticed that in Arrah grain dealers have come down from up-country, and are selling their stock in the town, as a readier means of disposing of it than by waiting to have it bought up by and consigned to the dealers here, the charge for storage being 1 in every 100 of grain sold.

Bengal rice is to be met with in the bazars in most parts of the district.

By river the imports into this district at present are not large. I submit below a statement showing the kind and price of grain selling at the principal marts in the district :—

GRAIN.	Arrah.	Sasseram.	Buxar.
	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.
Wheat	12	12½	13
Barley	15½	13	17
Rice (best sort)	11½	10	8½
Rice (common)	13	11½	13
Bajra	.....	14	17
Jawar	.....	14	16
Murwa	.....	14	.....
Maize	16	14	17
Gram	16	14	17

In regard to the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others, it is very difficult to give any thing like reliable information; no one questioned on this point having grain in store will admit it in any way, as the supposition at once arises, and which no amount of explanation or reasoning will remove, that the information is only being acquired with the view of annexing all such grain so stored. It is clear, however, from what can be learnt by general inquiry in different directions and from various sources, that there is grain stored and in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of the people for the next two to three months or to the coming in of the rubbee crop. When speaking of grain in stock I do not include recent foreign imports but what is remaining in store from the crops of last year.

The grain so stocked is not of course evenly distributed throughout the whole population, and therefore is not available for general consumption until it is brought into the market.

None has fallen. On more than one occasion the weather during the last fortnight has been cloudy and threatening but nothing has come of it, and the return to clear skies and cool west wind has dissipated all hope of rain so far as one can judge from present appearances.

Rain.

With this cloudy weather appeared a small black insect called by the natives láhí, which seemed to confine its attacks to the caster-oil báráy (from which an oil is extracted) and mustard crops. I noticed this insect myself in these crops near the town of Sasseram.

As has been noticed in former reports, the rice crop on the high lands, and which has been without the means of irrigation, has proved a failure. The rice land, irrigated in the sub-division of Sasseram by means of the main western canal and its branches, every where promises to be a very full crop indeed. In a part of the Bhubooah sub-division a tract of land has been irrigated by means of the Doorgentee river which was bunded up by the ryots 2 miles to the east of Mohonnia on the Grand Trunk Road. A nice flow of water has been sent down each side of the road a distance of 9 miles, and from these two main channels the fields containing both rubbee and dhan to the north and south of the road have been and are being irrigated to a considerable distance. This I myself saw, having gone for the purpose on the 1st instant. In a similar manner, but not to the same extent, have the crops been watered by means of the "Sora" nuddee which runs about 1 mile to the west of the town of Bhubooah. The rubbee crop on the whole is looking much better than I expected to find it.

State of the crops.

To the north of the line of railway it promises to be a very good crop, this land having the benefit of the flooding of the Ganges. In other parts of the district where they have been irrigated the cold-weather crops look healthy and green; in other places where the same means of irrigation have not existed the crops are growing, but require rain much to ensure anything like a fair outturn.

At present under this head there are no decided symptoms to create any alarm; plenty of occupation is obtainable in cutting such crops as are being gathered now. The rice crop will shortly be reaped, lands are being irrigated in every direction, and in many places ploughing is still going on with a view to sowing down rubbee. I have, in the course of my tour during the present month, neither come across nor heard of any case of actual misery and starvation, although no doubt the poorer part of the population are being much pressed by the present price of grain. There has been no increase of grain theft and robberies as induced by want or starvation.

Condition of the people.

(B.)—Relief Works.

4. (1) The land for the Buxar and Chowsa branch canals is being rapidly taken up and made over to the canal authorities, and these will afford relief to many if the labour is daily paid and the work not done by contract. This, I think, is a point that should be rigidly insisted on. I have not received returns as to the number and occupation of the labourers employed on these branch canals up to the 1st instant, but this information I hope to supply in my next fortnightly narrative.

(2) Raising and thoroughly repairing the Bhubooah and Mohunnea road. The work on this road has been laid out, but is not likely to attract many labourers whilst there is so much field work to do. Endeavours will be made to give work on this road to the rural population of this part of the district, and not to skilled labourers coming from a distance, unless they are actually in distress and therefore in want of employment.

(3) In the town of Arrah, the filling up of the tank called the Kaia* talao was commenced on the 27th ultimo, and up to the 30th a total of 622 men, women, and children, were employed at a cost of Rs. 39, the labour being paid daily at rates varying from 2 annas to 2 pice. Beyond these at present no other relief works are in progress.

* Sanctioned as a relief work in Government of Bengal's letter No. 2717, dated the 10th November.

(C.)—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

5. During the week ending on the 29th November 63,453 maunds of rice and other food-grains were imported into the district both from up and down country. There appears to be no difficulty in procuring the transport for the distribution of this grain in the district, nor do I anticipate that any real difficulty will be experienced in conveying to the different central depôts from the railway storage golahs the rice which will be hereafter used on local relief works.

(D.)—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

6. At present only the places of storage have been selected. Rice will be delivered at the railway stations at Arrah, Beheea, Domraon, Buxar, and Zummanea, from whence it will be conveyed to the central depôts in the different sub-divisions of the district near to where proposed relief works will be going on.

Some of the places for these central depôts have been selected, others remain to be fixed on at all of these. Any available accommodation will be taken advantage of in preference to constructing golahs. The drying houses attached to indigo factories, village cutcherries, and other existing buildings, will afford greater security for the grain, and will at the same time be easily guarded.

(E.)—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES AND THEIR RESULTS.

7. As yet none have been made, but the intentions of Government in regard to this matter have been notified, and are being fully made known throughout the district.

(F.)—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

8. No actual relief operations have been commenced as yet. The question as to the machinery for charitable relief is under consideration. I will report on it hereafter when the subject has been fully digested.

(G.)—FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE WEEK.

9. This heading for the week under review is blank.

If the disbursements in the Buxar and Chowsa canals are to be included in the fortnightly narrative under the head of relief works, I have to request that the Superintending Engineer, Soane Circle, may be directed to send me every fortnight full particulars both in regard to the amount expended and the numbers and caste of the labourers employed, and at what rates they are being daily paid, otherwise I shall not be in a position to know what the nature and extent of the relief is that the work on these canals is affording.

D. E. J.

No. 285, dated Mozufferpore, the 2nd December 1873.

From—F. M. Halliday, Esq., Collector of Tirhoot,

To—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

With reference to paragraphs 27 and 28 of Government circular No. 80, dated 17th November 1873, and paragraph 5 of circular No. 87, dated 24th idem, I have the honor to submit my first narrative of scarcity and relief in Tirhoot district for the fortnight ending Saturday, the 29th November 1873.

(A).—State of the Country.

2. During the past month there has been a very marked rise in the prices of food-grains generally, and specially in the case of rice, barley, and Indian-corn, but latterly prices have shown a tendency to remain stationary. The bazar is fairly supplied at present, and there is nowhere any difficulty in obtaining food at the prices quoted in the principal marts. Grain dealers are beginning to import on their own account, but not in large quantities.

Annexed is a statement showing the kinds and prices of grain selling at four principal marts :—

Name of marts	Wheat.	Barley.	Common rice.	Lesser millets.	Maize or Indian-corn	Gram.
Mozufferpore	10	16	12	17	17	15
Madhubany ,, ,, ..	10	20	14	18	16	14
Roserah	12	19	11½	17½	15¾	16¼
Seetamarhi	11	17½	12½	18¼	16¼	16¼

At Mozufferpore alone is common rice cheaper than it was ten days ago, but here it has fallen to 2¼ seers in the rupee. The comparatively high price of this grain at Roserah would seem to indicate that importation from outside has not yet been sufficiently large to affect the district, and that the people are still living on local supplies. Regarding stocks in the hands of zemindars, traders, &c, I have not much information to report. In the town of Lallgunge in the Hajeepore sub-division the Assistant Collector has ascertained from personal inquiries that the stores are as follow :—

	Mds
Makie	8,000
Rice	1,000
Other grains	1,000
Total	10,000

This town, however, is still exporting, and the Assistant Collector considers that the stocks of grain at Lallgunge may be regarded as merely passing through for the benefit of the importing districts, and can scarcely be taken into account in estimating our food-supplies. He further states that "in the villages within a radius of two miles from Lallgunge he ascertained that there were about 4,000 maunds stored in the hands of small bunnyas and ryots."

The Assistant Collector of Tajpore reports that the returns submitted by his subordinates who are employed in making inquiries show "that there are 1,49,233 maunds of grain in store of zemindars and traders in the sub-division." This amount he considers "grossly understated," though he is at the same time of opinion that "supplies are not large." He hopes however in a fortnight or so to know more of the actual quantities.

The Sub-Deputy Collector of Durbhunga has been making inquiries in the Baheyra thannah jurisdiction which comprises eight pergunnahs and four hundred and sixty-one villages. He estimates the stock of food-grains in hand

as sufficient to maintain the people in that part of the district for more than a year. In 13 tracts which he has visited he estimates existing stocks at 6,70,000 maunds. In those parts of the Durbhunga Raj property where inquiries have been made the stocks are stated by the manager to be 4,28,450 maunds. From Madhubany and Seetamarhi I have received no information on this head. The only other particulars that I have learnt have been furnished to me by Mr. Roberts, manager of Hathowree factory, in the east of the district (Durbhunga sub-division) This gentleman reports that in the Hathowree *dehaut*, comprising an area of 96 miles, the husked rice in store with mahajuns, malliks, bunnyas, &c., is 1,31,600 maunds; that the ordinary consumption from this date until the beating out of the rice crop of 1874, say till November next, is 8,00,000 maunds; and that there is consequently a deficiency of 6,68,400 maunds.

I regret that I am unable on this occasion to present the above facts in a clearer and more instructive shape. I am making arrangements for obtaining accurate descriptions of the areas of country dependent on the various places named by the sub-divisional officers, and I hope to submit a map in the course of a few weeks showing the tracts in which inquiries have been completed.

There has been no fall of rain in any part of the district. The cutting of the dhan where crops have succeeded in attaining maturity has now commenced, and the actual outturn will, I hope, be shortly ascertained. The rubbee crops are still alive in most places (few as compared with ordinary years) where they have been sown, and in the vicinity of villages where irrigation is possible some of the crops are thriving well; generally they are of course very backward, and their yield per beegah under the most favorable circumstances will be less than usual.

The condition of the people is as good as can be expected. There is much anxiety felt as to the future, and the poorer classes are by necessity reducing their consumption of food; but judging from their outward appearance, the absence of any unusual demand for employment, and the paucity of beggars, I am of opinion that there is not much pressure as yet.

It must be remembered, however, that the lowest classes of natives are rarely affected very powerfully by fears for the future, and that the present is all that they thoroughly realize. There is, in short, enough to make them very anxious, but not enough to render them distressed or disheartened. The real pressure, when it does arrive, will probably show itself very suddenly.

No cases of misery and starvation have been brought to my knowledge, and I believe none have occurred.

There have been some petty grain thefts, but no thefts of such a kind or under such circumstances as to suggest the belief that they were committed from want of food.

There are no tracts in such a condition as to deserve special mention.

(W)—Relief Works.

3. No relief works of any importance have yet been taken in hand, but I am this day submitting to the Commissioner in a separate letter a list of proposed works, the cost of which is estimated to aggregate Rs. 95,511. I have, however, already made over Rs. 1,000 to each sub-divisional officer to be expended on petty relief works whenever and wherever he may have reason to believe that employment is wanted. One petty work consisting of repairs to a road in Seetamarhi, half mile long, was begun on the 27th ultimo, and from the 1st instant two road works have been opened in the Hajeepore sub-division. The works have been started more with the view of testing the state of the labouring classes than in consequence of any actual demand for employment, and they will be fully reported on in my next narrative.

I have advanced to the Executive Engineer Rs. 2,000 for the purchase of tools and baskets, and a further sum of Rs. 1,000 to Mr. Roberts of Hathowree factory for a like purpose. I anticipate no difficulty in obtaining tools in the district.

(C).—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

4. If private food-supplies are what I understand them to mean, viz. supplies procured by private parties to whom advances have been made, none have as yet come into the district from outside, though several consignments are on their way here. The means of transport will in all probability be quite sufficient; most of the persons to whom advances have been made being planters who can supply their own carriage, while the rest will make their own arrangements.

For the transport of grain to be stored at golahs for relief works, I expect to obtain carriage without much difficulty, but my inquiries on this point are not yet concluded.

(D).—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

5. The places of storage selected are as follow :—

Hajeepore Sub-Division.—Hajeepore, Lallgunge, and Mohowa, (3).

Tajpore Sub-Division.—Maheeoodeenagur, Dulsingseria, Tajpore, Poosa, (4).

Durbhunga Sub-Division.—Durbhunga, Baheyra, Roserah-Singhya, (3).

Madhubany Sub-Division.—Madhubany, Bani-Pattee, Khajowlee, Madheypore, (4).

Seetamarhi Sub-Division.—Seetamarhi, Shewheer, Moorsund, (3).

Sudder Sub-Division.—Toorkee, Belsund, Kutra, Mozufferpore, Shahebgunge, Rowa, (6).

I have already obtained golahs at Hajeepore, Poosa, Roserah-Singhya, and Madhubany, and am arranging for building and hiring others. Poosa will be used as a large central depôt, being easily accessible from Hajeepore and Barh. I propose to place each golah under the charge of a goladar and two peons; the former will be paid Rs. 15 or 20 per month, according to the size and importance of the golah, and the latter Rs. 5 each. No supplies have yet been received for Government purpose.

(E).—ADVANCES TO PRIVATE PARTIES, &c.

6. Advances to the full amount, *i.e.* 1½ lakhs allotted to me by the Commissioner under paragraph 4 (*a*) of circular No. 80, have been assigned to 20 gentlemen, of whom 16 are planters in various parts of the district and the others are natives. No other kind of advances have yet been made; purchases of grain have already been made by several of the above parties, and the first supplies are daily expected to come into the district.

(F).—CHARITABLE RELIEF.

7. No arrangements have yet been made under this head, as I have been obliged to devote all my attention to the more pressing portion of the Government orders.

(G).—FINANCIAL RESULTS.

8. With the exception of Rs. 5,000 sent to sub-divisional officers as already mentioned, and Rs. 2,000 as advanced to one planter, no disbursements have been actually made on any of the accounts specified under this head in the Government circular.

9. I must apologise for the delay of one day in submitting this report.

W. E. B.

No. 265, dated Sarun, the 2nd December 1873.

Memo by—J. E. DRUMMOND, Esq., Offg Collector and Magistrate, Sarun.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Statistical Department, Calcutta, for information, with reference to his Circular No. 80 of the 17th ultimo.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Sarun District for the week ending Saturday, the 29th November 1873.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazar.

1. There has been a good deal of grain imported into the bazars of the district lately, principally from up-country, and the result has been that prices have generally fallen, from about a seer to a seer and a half more being procurable for the rupee. The import has been principally Indian-corn. Mr. Hodgkinson at Hatwah, however, reports that the import from Goruckpore has now to a great extent ceased, owing to the rates at the place of export having risen greatly.

Kind and price of grain.

2. The kind and price of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts are given below :—

No.	Name of principal marts	Coarse rice, per Re. 1	Indian-corn, per Re. 1.	Barley, per Re. 1
1	Chuprah	12 seers.	17½	17½
2	Revilgunge	12 „	18	19½
3	Doroegunge	12½ „	*Nil.*	19
4	Sewan	13 „	18½	17
5	Moharajgunge	12 „	*Nil.*	20
6	Meergunge	12 „	18½	21

Stock of food in the hands of zemindars.

3. The stock of food usually kept by zemindars, traders, and ryots, is not very large at any time, and it is most difficult to procure reliable information on the subject. It is believed that the higher and middle class cultivators have a stock sufficient to last them for at the outside probably not more than three or four months, but the poorer ryots and laborers have little or nothing stored by, and in consequence are largely seeking for work. The present stock is principally composed of makai and other bhadoi crops, on which the people are now for the most part subsisting. The people may thus be dependent on the rubbee harvest for about five months. The Manager of the Hatwa Estate writes thus, and his remarks have general application :—

"Taking the estate as a whole, I do not think the present stock can last unsupplemented beyond May, and I estimate that between 400,000 and 500,000 maunds of grain will be required in addition to present stocks to feed the people until the next Indian-corn crop is reaped. The stocks are principally held by persons who act as mahajuns to ryots, they having taken over the grain in exchange for the money advanced to the ryots for their rents, &c. The stocks held by the majority of the ryots will last but a very short time, and they will then have recourse to the mahajun, who, to secure the money he has already advanced, will carry them on as long as he can, charging an interest in kind, which will fall heavily on the next crop. The stocks in the hands of traders are anything but large; they usually depend on a regular supply, for which they often arrange beforehand, being brought to their bazars for them to buy up and keep their

stock continually replenished. The cessation of traffic from the district from which the largest supplies are derived has reduced their stocks very low."

Rainfall (if any).

4. There has been no rain since September.

State of the crops.

5. The rice crop has been a general failure and cannot certainly exceed an eighth of an average crop, and probably will not be more than a tenth. Taking the district as a whole, about three-fourths of the usual area under rubbee crops, or say under a million acres, may be said to have been sown, and where sown the crop has mostly germinated and is still doing well, though somewhat thin. The whole yield without rain, however, is not estimated to be likely to be more than a fourth of an ordinary crop, or more than eight to ten annas even with rain. Regarding the Hatwa estate Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows:—

"Since my return from Chuprah I have been over a considerable portion of the estate. About three-fourths of the usual area has been sown, I judge, except in Morar and the west of Dhoboul zillahs, where the land sown is, and must, I fear, continue to be, under one-half the average; and even the crop sown there does not look at all well. Here, as elsewhere, every effort is being made to get a supply of water, but the nature of the soil is such that even ordinary irrigation can secure little unless an early rain falls. In Bhorey and the rest of Dhoboul the crop sown was really very good in the clay lands which were irrigated. On the light lands the crop was thin, but so far healthy. In Sipaha, at the east of the estate, and around Sreepore factory in the centre of it, the crops looked healthy, but generally somewhat thin; in some of the lighter fields it had begun to wither. If rain fall within a week or so, we might, I take it, hope for an 8-anna crop, not more, on the area sown. The crops on clay (banga) lands may be kept up by irrigation up to February, I hope, even without rain; but every day's sun and west wind which we have without rain is diminishing the chances of a crop on other lands. I take it that from four to five pucka maunds per beegah will be even, under favorable circumstances, the most we can expect. Assuming the area sown in rubbee grain crops to be about 100,000 beegahs, out of an area of 350,000 acres, I obtain as a result 400,000 to 500,000 maunds for the outturn, an amount only equivalent to the estimated deficit in the stock required to carry the population through till next September."

It is proper to note, however, that a much more sanguine estimate of the food supplies is taken by Mr. Wright, who remarks as follows:—

"As regards the food supply, I have been making inquiries at all the places I have visited, and I find that the stores of grain in the hands of the goladars and mahajuns in this sub-division is fully equal to a six months' supply of food for the people; so that if the rubbee crops succeed, there will be nothing more than slight distress and no fear of famine whatever. In one bazar alone (Siahuta) the canoongo reports that "the goladars of this place have got about 20,000 maunds of janera, exclusive of other food corn, and the store is daily increasing."

He adds in his report just received:—

"I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that it (the supply) is quite sufficient to carry them on till the rubbee crops are reaped even without any importation. There may be a slight deficiency in parts of the division, such as about Bhorey in the Hatwah estate, but this could be met by what is in stock in excess of the requirements of other parts."

The following is the account of Mr. Wright, the sub-divisional officer of Sewan, regarding the rubbee crops, but with respect to his estimate of the area sown, it should be noted that he has seen the best of the pergunnahs in his sub-division:—

"From the report received by me and from what I have personally seen I think I may safely say that ⅞ths of the rubbee crops have been sown. They have germinated beautifully almost every where, and will, I have no doubt, give fully a 12-anna outturn if we have rain, as we usually do have during the first portion of the month of Pous. The ryots are busy making cutcha wells throughout the country and irrigating their lands from those wells; without rain, however, within a month (*i.e.*, up to 21st December) I am afraid

the rubbee will be a failure, as the cutcha wells will run dry: tanks and hollows are even now getting dry."

And in the report since received he states:—

"The rubbee crop is being so well cared for that I think it may be considered safe to give even without rain an 8-anna outturn. With rain, of course the outturn will increase according as we get the rain earlier or later. Taking the sub-division as a whole, I think $\frac{7}{8}$ths of the rubbee crops have been sown. The time for sowing is not quite over, and parts of the division, like Bhorey, where perhaps only $\frac{3}{4}$ths of the rubbee has been sown, may yet have the full $\frac{7}{8}$ths put down."

Mr. Wright however does not take into consideration the imminent risk of the wells running dry, and his views are, in my opinion, altogether too favorable

Condition of the people.

6. The poorer classes of the people now begin to feel the pressure of the scarcity severely, and are unable to find work in the fields which the rice harvest usually affords them. Many are at present being employed by indigo planters, but this work will soon cease, and they will then flock in increased numbers to the relief works. Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows with respect to the Hutwah estate:—

"To the relief works already opened laborers came from six or eigth miles, returning at night. A very large proportion of them are women and children of all ages. Even Brahmins and Bhamuns have come to the works in Morar, but the distress is most severe."

This applies also to the relief works opened elsewhere in the district, and the Executive Engineer states that about $\frac{1}{20}$th of the work-people now engaged on the roads belong to the higher castes, such as Rajpoots, Bhooinhars, Koormees, Noonias, &c., who in ordinary years would not be so engaged.

As showing the condition of the people in the sudder sub-division, the following remarks from a report submitted by the sudder canoongo after a tour throughout it may here be quoted:—

"The demand for relief works in the sub-division is doubtless requisite. The maliks have realized from the ryots on account of the year 1281 F.S. their four annas kist of rent in some places, and eight annas kist in others, making an average of six annas for the whole sub-division. To satisfy this demand of the maliks, the ryots have been compelled to sell what outturn they had of their bhadoi crops. Better than half the number of ryots have sold all they got from bhadoi. The remainder, to whom a portion remained after paying off the rent, have consumed it, or have nearly done so. The poor class of cultivators who are two-thirds of the total number of cultivators, usually have mahajuns who advance money to them for payment of their rent and grains for their food, which they recover from their crops. These "Sahus" having no hope of recovery owing to the failure of crops, and consequently general apprehension of an imminent famine, have drawn back their hands from any more advance. This has almost driven this class of ryots to despair. The rate of grain also, such as rice, janera, &c., has gone down by half. The bannias have already brought the famine on. The people have very little hope save assistance from their rulers; wherever I have gone into the interior the general cry is for help from Government."

The following is extracted from Mr. Wright's report since received:—

"Mr. Hodgkinson states that there is some distress towards Bhorey in the north-west portion of the sub-division, and he has commenced relief works by giving the people of that quarter work in road-making and digging tanks, or rather deepening and clearing out old tanks; with the above exception I have heard of no distress amongst the people. I think they have as yet full employment in their fields. I have particularly noticed that all the men employed in repairing the roads by the Executive Engineer are men of the common labouring class from the town of Sewan, who would even in ordinary years undertake the same work. These men I have noticed working on the roads at long distances from Sewan, showing there can be no distress in the part of the

country where they were working from the fact of none of the people of those parts being on the works.

If however the people do not come on the roads, it is more likely to be due to the insufficient establishment hitherto employed than to the fact of their not wanting work, and I feel confident, judging from the results elsewhere, that wherever work is started on a sufficiently extensive scale, the people will flock to it in large numbers.

Known cases of misery or starvation, &c.

7. No cases of misery or starvation have as yet been reported, and there have been no grain thefts or robberies.

Condition of any special tracts

8. The worst tract probably is in the extreme north-west of the district in the Morar and Dhoboul zillahs of Hatwah estate where Mr. Hodgkinson writes that the land sown is and must, he fears, continue to be under one-half the average; and that even the crop sown there does not look at all well, while the nature of the soil is such that even ordinary irrigation can secure but little unless an early rain falls.

B.—Relief Works.

Progress of relief works, &c.

9. The annexed statements show the relief works in progress in the district and the number employed thereon. In addition to these works, there are about 3,000 persons daily employed on roads under the charge of planters, so that the total daily number now employed is about 14,000, exclusive of those employed on the Gunduck embankment, regarding which no return has been received. These numbers will largely increase as fresh relief works are undertaken. Requisite arrangements for the supply of tools, &c., are being made.

Mr. Hodgkinson writes as follows regarding his relief works:—

"The annexed table shows the number employed on relief works already opened. It is not intended at present to go on with road-making to any extent. as it will be necessary to keep some work for the rains, and all our efforts now are required to supply the want of water. On the 23rd instant I travelled some thirty miles in Bhorey, Dhoboul, and Morar, and found only one tank better than a puddle, nearly all were quite dry. Tank work will moreover keep the people nearer their villages, and the loss of time in going to and from the relief work will be reduced; I therefore have directed that a large number of useful tanks should be deepened at once in this locality. A meeting was held yesterday of the European gentlemen who are tickadars of the estate, and they all seemed to be of opinion that work should be afforded at once in the villages in lease to them. I provisionally sanctioned the following works to be put in hand at once:—

	Tanks.	Estimated cost.
		Rs.
In villages connected with Suddowa and Suppaya factory under charge of Mr. Reid	25	5,000
In villages connected with Jugdispore and Protabpore under charge of Mr. M. Macdonald and Mr. W. Buskin ..	15	3,000
In villages connected with Jogapore under charge of Mr. W. Smith	10	2,000
Total ..	50	10,000

"The works will be undertaken by the gentlemen above named, who will be paid at approved rates for the work done.

"The laborers are at present paid daily in pice, of which 75 to 80 go to the rupee according to rate of exchange. The stronger men get 8 pice, and the wage varies for the rest from 6 pice to 1 anna, and, as a rule, it is kept for each person somewhat below what he would get for ordinary field labor. The stronger members of the family are employed in their fields, and it is only the weaker women and children, and such as cannot find field work, who come to

the relief works. The wage is adequate to procure them sufficient food at present, and supplies are to be had near the spot. Preparations for conveying and storing grain in the neighbourhood are in hand.

"Many of the laborers bring their own kodalees and baskets, for the rest they have been provided, the former mainly from Sreepore factory, and the latter bought in the neighbourhood."

C.—Transport of Food.

Approximate account of private food supplies, &c

10. It is impossible to state the approximate amount of private food supplies which come into the district. I do not anticipate any difficulty regarding means of transport in this district, as there will be plenty of carts available and the requirements of private traders are fully met.

The following is the account given under this head by Mr. Hodgkinson of the arrangements made for the Hatwah estate:—

"Arrangements have been made by me for the importation of about 100,000 maunds of rice, &c., principally from the coast ports and Calcutta. It is estimated to cost Rs. 3-8-0 per maund at Patna. From there it will be taken in boats, some to Revilgunge, but most of it to Mujharia ghât on the Gunduck, whence it will be distributed to the other storage golahs. Arrangements were made yesterday for storing grain at the following factories, the managers of which have kindly agreed to arrange for its transport:—

Shahpore,	pergunnah	Dungsi	5,000 maunds ..	Mr. D. Reid.
Munearah,	"	Koaree	10,000 " ..	Mr. D. Reid.
Sipaya,	"	"	10,000 " ..	Mr. D. Reid.
Kahala,	"	Sipaha ..	8,000 " ..	Mr. W. Smith.
Sreepore,	"	Koaree ..	15,000 " ..	Mr. Buskin.
Jugdispore,	"	" ..	6,000 " ..	Mr. Macdonald.
Protanpore,	"	Chowbar ..	4,000 " ..	"
Chukkeya on Goruckpore boundary in south-east of Bhorey			5,000 " ..	Mr W. Buskin.

Smaller golahs, which will be managed directly from Hatwah, are being put up at Bhorey, Chumookha, and Dhoboul, and others will probably be necessary at Gopalgunge, Belahee, Kutteya, Sonohula, and near Muthia. A rough map is annexed. Of the grain I have ordered through Messrs. Schœne, Kilburn and Company from Calcutta and the coast ports, about 5,340 maunds have been sent off from Calcutta, and Messrs. Charrier and Company, Dinapore, have also procured for me 5,600 maunds, which have been received at Patna; of this quantity about 880 maunds have arrived at Revilgunge, of which 686 maunds have been already carted into Hatwah. There are carts sent off sufficient to bring about 3,000 maunds, and boats to bring up the Daha Nuddee (which runs three miles from Hatwah) about 750 maunds. I do not anticipate any difficulty in providing transport, the centre and eastern part of the estate is rich in carts, and the cartmen are only too glad to get work. The indigo planters have also a large number of carts of their own, and have promised me every assistance. It will be absolutely necessary to have European supervision at Munjharia, where the greater part of the grain will be landed and temporarily stored; and I hope to report the arrangement I propose to make in two or three days."

Mr. Wright also observes:—

"With respect to the means of transport of food, I think we can easily manage to organize a transport service of the pack-bullocks and carts and cattle that are available in the district. In this sub-division alone a thousand pack-bullocks and fifteen hundred carts with a pair of bullocks each could be readily obtained. This would give us the means of transporting at least 25,000 maunds of grain in one trip."

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

Places of storage selected, &c

11. Attempts to procure grain through the local dealers for storage at relief works having altogether failed, the Commissioner has been asked to import a lakh of maunds of grain from the North-West Provinces for the purpose, and it is proposed to

have principal storage centres at each of the thannahs, the grain being distributed as under, from whence it would be transported to the different relief works :—

Thannas.		Mds.
1.	Chupra	10,000
2.	Dighwara	5,000
3.	Parsah	10,000
4.	Masruck	14,000
5.	Basantpore	10,000
6.	Manjhi	7,000
7.	Sewan	14,000
8.	Darowlee	10,000
9.	Burrowli	8,000
10.	Barragaon	12,000
	Total ..	100,000

The police were called upon to report what arrangements could be made for the storage of this grain at the different thannahs, and whether any vacant buildings could be hired or lent for the purpose. All the replies have not yet been received, but it will probably be necessary at some places to construct gollahs on this account.

My original application to the Commissioner was for two lakhs of maunds, but with reference to the small credit (Rs. 2,00,000) allotted for this district, my demand was reduced to one lakh. As these Government stores may eventually be indented on for supplies to charitable relief centres when such are opened, my original estimate will not, it is thought, be in excess of what may actually be required, and with this view the Commissioner has again been addressed for a further supply.

E.—Advance to Private Parties and their Result.

Advances for purchase of grain, &c.

12. Advances to the extent of Rs. 30,000 for the purchase and storage of grain have actually been made to planters, and it is probable that such advances to European gentlemen will not fall short of a lakh of rupees. No advances have hitherto been made for land improvement, but measures are being taken to invite applications on this account.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Actual relief operations, &c., &c.

13. The manner in which it is proposed that charitable relief should be provided, if unhappily such relief should be necessary, will be detailed in the next fortnightly report.

G.—Financial Results of the Week.

The following are the financial results of the relief operations up to 29th ultimo :—

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Expenditure incurred by the Executive Engineer of Sarun from local funds on relief works, as detailed in the statement from 20th to 27th November 1873	... ...	2,751 12 3
2. Expenditure incurred by the Magistrate on levelling the serai compound as a relief work from Banwaree Lal's building fund from 17th to 29th ultimo	... ...	581 3 0
3. Expenditure incurred by the Collector on account of advances for purchase of food to—		
Mr. H. W. Llewellin	10,000 0 0	
„ P. M. Llewhellin	10,000 0 0	
„ E. G. Williams	10,000 0 0	
		30,000 0 0
Total of the week's expenditure	....	33,332 15 3
(a) Financial payments made	3,332 15 3	
(b) Advance repayable	30,000 0 0	
		33,332 15 3
Grand total to the end of the week	....	33,332 15 3

D. E. J.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the District of Chumparun for the week ending Saturday, the 29th November 1873.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

(*a.*) Abundance or scarcity of supply in the bazars.

In none of the chief marts* can the supply of rice be said to be abundant, and in some of them, noteably at Motiharee, Bettiah, and Dhaka, there has been considerable scarcity, but no actual deficiency. This is due entirely to the fact of the mahajuns and others who sell grain for a profit withholding their supplies in order to sell them hereafter when prices have reached their minimum. The principal exporting tracts lie to the north of the district bordering on the Nepaul frontier and constituting the tuppas of Buhar, Toomur, and Serowna. At Buttiah the bania's shops have been closed on two occasions, but at present food-grains are procurable at fair rates.

* Motiharee, Bettia, Gobindgunge, Saturiah, Adapore, Madhoobun, Ghorasahan, Ramnuggur.

(*b.*)—*Kind and Price* of grain selling at one or more specified principal marts.

This is given in the annexed statement.

(*c.*) Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in stock in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others. The information obtainable on this head must necessarily be only approximate, but from special inquiries made by the manager of the Bettiah raj at my request it would seem that there are upwards of 600,000 maunds of grain† stored throughout the district; the greater part of this is of course last year's grain (old). The largest stocks are in tuppahs Bettiah, Bahar, Lohuryah, Putjirwah, Doulta, and Soogaon. This grain is chiefly in the hands of zemindars and mahajuns, the latter of whom especially, as stated above, are withholding their stocks in order to derive an enormous profit hereafter. No reliable information has yet been ascertained as to the stocks in the hands of ryots. But as a rule they do not store grain in this district, their crops being almost always mortgaged to their mahajuns. The richer classes of ryots are said to have put by, for their own use, sufficient of the bhadoi crop to last them for two or three months.

† Rice, makai (maize), kodo, &c.

RAINFALL, &c.

No rain has fallen throughout the month of November, so that the prospects have not, I regret to say, improved. From Bettiah I have received unfavorable reports as to the state of the north-west portion of the sub-division, the tract inhabited by the Tharoos of Rajpore, Sohurnah, and Ramnuggur. These people are entirely dependent on their rice crop, and are as a rule a very provident race, making every endeavour by natural and artificial irrigation to help themselves, and thus during the last famine they suffered but little owing to the facilities they possessed for supplying water to their fields. This year, however, their water-supply was cut off by the Nepalese, and what remained of last year's rice has been taken or secured by the mahajuns to cover their advances. The consequence is that the Tharoos of Rajpore, Sohurnah, are in considerable distress, and are reported to be emigrating into Nepaul. The manager of the Bettiah raj has, I understand, remitted a portion of their rents, and taken steps to import grain into the distressed tracts. Mr. Samuells, the sub-divisional officer, has been for some time at and near the locality, and reports that immediate relief measures are necessary; he has therefore commenced constructing a road from Trebanee to Hurnataur and from thence to Ramnuggur, which passes through most of the villages at present suffering from scarcity, and has called a meeting of the principal chowdhries of that part of the country (called Tharoohut). They have given him a dismal account of the state of the country. The Rajah of Ramnuggur has with great liberality advanced money to one of the principal chowdhries for the support of the Tharoos in his estate (Ramnuggur Tharoos), and he will, it is stated, be thus enabled to afford these people means to support themselves for six months. In consequence of this the Tharoos of this estate (Ramnuggur) are much better off. It is reported that the Tharoos will not work on roads; in this case they will have to emigrate; the construction of the road however from Trebanee to Hurnataur will test the truth or otherwise of this report, and will at any rate afford relief to the other classes of the inhabitants of that tract. It is abundantly evident, however, that the stock of grain in that portion of the district is far short of the demand, and no local traders or private individuals have come forward to contract for the supply of grain.

It is very necessary, therefore, that grain should be imported with this view. I have made an urgent call upon the Commissioner for a supply of grain; this will be forwarded with all despatch to Bugaha, and from thence transported by carts to the relief works, to be stored at Hurnataur and Trebanee; and I have since received advice of the despatch shortly of 4,000 maunds from the north-east portion of the district (Ghorashan and Adapore) bordering on the Nepaul frontier. I have also received reports of scarcity, and have directed the immediate commencement of repairs to the road from Dhaka to Ghorashan and on to Kutkunwah; the latter portion of the road will be new. I have also constructed a line of road joining Adapore and Ramgurwah on the Ruawul to Segowlee road. This has been surveyed by the Public Works Department, and operations will commence immediately with regard to the crops. The dhan will not yield more than a 2-anna crop; the condition of the rubbee* varies in different parts of the district, but may be said on the whole to be as yet promising. In Mudhoobanee (north-west) this crop is said to be very flourishing, and throughout the district, with the exception of the tuppas

* Wheat. Barley. Peas. | Moosur. Khasari. Potatoes.

north of the Sekrana river and in the north-western tuppahs of Butsorah and Sohuria, &c., from 8 to 12 annas of the crop has been sown and have germinated fairly. If rain falls in sufficient quantities during December, and insects do not attack the young plants, there will probably be an average outturn. Should there be no rain, not more than a 6-anna crop can be expected. The sugarcane and rohur crops are also reported to be looking well in the tuppas north of the Sekrana, and in the north-western tuppas of Butsora-Sohuria; the rubbee is said to be very bad, and probably not more than two annas of it has been sown. In these parts the main crops are dhan and sugarcane, very little rubbee being ever sown.

No actual cases of misery or starvation have as yet come to light. In the Bettiah sub-division one individual came to the Joint-Magistrate and said that he and his family were starving. But on Mr. Samuells going to the spot, he found that the statement was wholly unfounded; the man refused to work, and had sold neither his cattle nor anything else. A relief work was in operation within a mile of this man's village, and he had been put forward by the other inhabitants to see what would come of his assertion. At present the people are anxiously watching for rain for the rubbee, and were somewhat desponding at the continued drought; the report, however, having got abroad that stocks of grain are coming into the district imported by Government, they are looking forward to the future with more confidence. A few grain thefts have been reported, but nothing as yet out of the ordinary course. No actual pressure exists at present, but distress (as above stated) is beginning to be felt in the north and north-western tuppas, where the people rely almost entirely on the dhan and sugarcane crops.

B.—Relief Works.

(1.) *Bettia Sub-Division.*—A road between Trebanee and Hurnataur (in the extreme north-west of the district) distance 12 miles (new).

Actually started.

(2.) A road from Bettiah to Gobindgunge, distance 20 miles. This is an old road, but will have to be raised and thoroughly repaired throughout.

(3.) A road from Lohorya to Bhowrah (in the frontier), distance 18 miles; a new work.

(4.) *Sudder Division.*—Repairs to the road from Motiharee to Bukhri on Mozufferpore boundary, distance 32 miles.

(5.) Repairs to road from Segowlee to Reawul (on frontier), distance 18 miles.

(6.) Repairs to road from Motiharee to Dhaka, distance 14 miles; old road, to be raised in many places and thoroughly repaired.

(7.) Repairs to road from Dhaka to Ghorasahur, 12 miles, to be repaired and put in order.

(8.) Repairs to road from Kesaorah to Gobindgunge, 18 miles. This will have to be raised and thoroughly repaired; cost Rs. 30 per mile.

(9.) Repairs to road from Dhaka to Etwa Ghât, 14 miles; will require raising and thoroughly repairing.

These roads have only just been started and no detailed accounts have as yet been received, with the exception of road No. 5. A complete report will be made next week. The roads in the Bettiah sub-division are under the supervision of the sub-divisional officer assisted by the establishment noted in the margin. The roads in the sudder division are all under the supervision of European planters, who have a writer under them to keep the daily register of attendance and the accounts; but, as before stated, they have only just commenced operation; so no detailed information can be given this week. The planters supply their own kodalies, and an indent for 5,000 has been made on the Commissioner. The Superintendent of the Jail is making baskets as fast as he can, and Mr. Lethbridge of Buhar factory has also undertaken the manufacture of a large quantity. A writer on each road will be required to keep the registers. People are said to be flocking readily to works Nos. 2, 3, 5, and 6.

	Per mensem. Rs.
1 Superintendent on	150
1 Overseer	50
1 Writer	6
3 Peons, at	4

(1.) *Relief works in contemplation.*—A new road from Adapore police station on frontier to meet the road to Reawul from Segowlee. This is a distance of about 14 miles. The line of road has been surveyed and marked out. Estimates of cost, &c., have not yet been received, but the work will shortly be commenced.

(2.) An embankment of four miles costing about Rs. 1,000 to protect the Segowlee end of the Segowlee to Reawul road. This is being marked out.

(3.) Repairs to the road from Kutkunwah outpost on frontier to Motiharee. This is an important road leading direct from Motiharee to the frontier, and is much used. About 12 miles of this road is in a very bad state, having been washed away in several places. It consists of a very high embankment, and would afford work to a large number of persons for some time. A large amount of earthwork having to be executed, an estimate of the cost of the work is under preparation.

(4.) A new raised road to join Ghorashan outpost with Kutkunwah along the Nepal frontier, 10 to 12 miles. An estimate is being made.

(5.) A scheme to repair, deepen, and clear out a series of large reservoirs, which extend from the Nepal frontier on the north near Bhelwa and Poornehiah southwards towards Dhaka, Puddumker, Murpa, &c. These reservoirs evidently date from a long period back, and have clearly been constructed for irrigation purposes. The scheme would include the clearing out of the channels or waterways leading from each of these, and we should thus have a continuous chain of reservoirs extending across the district. The work would be of great and permanent

benefit to that part of the country, and would afford ample work for a large number of people for a long time

Bettiah sub-division—

A road from Trebanee to Pogaha.
Ditto Bogaha to Ramnuggur.
Ditto Ramnuggur to Lowreah.
Ditto Bettiah to Ripra Ghâton Gunduck.

Estimates will be made of all these.

C. & D.—No private food supplies would seem to have come into the district from outside The European planters have, however, agreed among themselves to import, for the use of their ryots and for charitable distribution, Rs. 1,18,000 worth of rice, and this is being purchased from Calcutta and elsewhere. None I believe has actually arrived. As no stocks have been received, no transport service has been actually at work, but it is intended to land and store grain at Gobindgunge and Bagaha on the Gunduck, and arrangements have been made with Mr. Lethbridge of the Ramgurwa (Buhar) factory to transport the same from Gobindgunge for the use of the persons working in the relief works in the sudder division. The grain would pass by the Gobindgunge to Segowlee road (in very good order) to Ramgurwa (*viâ* Segowlee to Reawul road now being repaired) for the relief works* in that quarter, being stored at Ramgurwa, Chumpapore, Bhowanipore, and perhaps Adapore (police station). For the relief works Nos. 4, 6, 7 (actually started), and Nos. 3 and 4 (in contemplation), the grain would come from Gobindgunge (*viâ* Gobindgunge to Segowlee road) to Mukwa, then branch off *viâ* Sirkowleah to Motiharee, and be stored at Motiharee and Barah and Piprah factories for road No. 4 (actually started), and at Motiharee, Meerpore (half way) and Dhaka for work No. 6, also at Dhaka Poornehia (factory) and Ghorashan (police station) for No. 7. For No. 9 (actual), the grain would come *viâ* Dhakaha (on the Gunduck), pass Kessareah and Kullianpore on road from Rajpore to Motiharee, thence at Kullianpore branch off to Etwa Ghat, and be stored there at Purrywa, half way (factory), and at Dhaka (police station). For relief work No. 8, it would travel *viâ* Gobindgunge and Kessareah road, and be stored at Sugrampore, Bhowanipore, and Kessareah. For relief No. 5 (contemplated), storage places have not yet been thought of.

* No. 5, actually started.
„ 1, in contemplation.
„ 2, „ „

Orders have already been passed for the construction of golahs at Gobindgunge, Bagaha, Hurnataur, Ramnuggur, Ramgurwa, Chumpapore, Bhowanipore, Dhaka, and Ghorashan. The grain required for the north and north-western portion of the district would be landed at Bagaha, and transported thence by cart belonging to Mr. Christian, wood contractor, whose carts bring wood (timber) from the jungles, and in the return trip would take grain. For the Bettiah to Bhowrah and Bettiah to Gobindgunge works (Nos. 2 and 3 actually started), the grain would go from Gobindgunge to Bettiah, and be stored at those places. No grain, as above stated, has actually been stored.

Mr Macleod, Lalsaryah.
„ Edwards, Motharee.
„ Lewis, Sirkowleah
„ Begg, Seeraha
„ Nicolay, Burah
„ Macqueen, Setareah.
„ Macleod, Piprah.

Mr. Shaw Rajpore
„ Hudson, Pursa
„ Lethbridge Buhar
„ Brooke, Madpurwah
„ Fraser, Dokraha
„ Macdonald, Lohoryah

E.—An advance of Rs 5,000 to each of the European planters named in the margin has been sanctioned by the Commissioner, and will be paid in a few days. No other advances have been made or sanctioned under this head.

F.—These arrangements have not yet been perfected. The sub-divisional officer of Bettiah has been requested to select centres, and make arrangements in anticipation of their being required.

G.—The final results are given in the subjoined statement.

Sudder Station.	Advances made from District Road Fund deposit.
	Rs.
Mr. Lethbridge, in charge of Behar relief works	600
„ Shaw, in charge of Kessareah to Gobindgunge road ..	800
„ Nicolay of Burah	200
„ Macleod of Piprah	200
„ Edwards of Furnehia, from Dacca to Ghorashan road ..	300
Ferry Fund Overseer	100
Joint-Magistrate of Bettiah, for relief works in the Bettiah sub-division	3,000
District Superintendent, for advances for boat-hire, &c., for importation of grain from Patna to Gobindgunge	1,000
Total ..	5,700

CHUMPARUN,
The 2nd December 1873.

H. F. J. KEAN,
Collector.

Prices of Food-grains in the District of Chumparun.

No.	District.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, best sort.	Rice, common.	Murwa.	Maize or Indian-corn.	Gram.
		Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.
1	Motiharee	11	20	9	13	21	20	16
2	Mudhoobun	12½	.....	11	12	.....	21	18
3	Gobindgunj	11½		10	11		20	15
4	Kossariah	13		10	12		17	16
5	Gharashun	12	..	11	14	....	17	18
6	Dacca	12	20	12	11	16	20	16
7	Mehee	13	18	10	14	22½	18	18
8	Dakree	10	17½	10	14	20	20	17½
9	Sungrampore	11	20	12	11	28	21	18
10	Lowriah	16½	18	13	16	22	24	17
11	Bettiah	13	10	10½	13½			17½

H. F. J. KEAN,
Collector.

RESOLUTION.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

Calcutta, the 9th December 1873.

READ—

The first batch of fortnightly reports for the distressed districts of the Bhaugulpore Division, bringing the history of the drought down to the 29th November 1873.

Date of Receipt of the Reports.

Bhaugulpore	...	...	...	...	3rd December.
Purneah	...	...	..	...	" "
Monghyr	...	...	...	...	8th "

1. The Lieutenant-Governor is much obliged to Messrs. Taylor and Kemble for sending in their reports so punctually. Both reports are full and satisfactory; Mr. Taylor's especially is exactly what the Lieutenant-Governor desires their reports to be; it shows that good progress is being made in carrying out the policy of Government in every respect, and it states clearly why Mr. Taylor abstains from offering estimates of the stocks, and why he is unable at the time to give statistics of the labourers employed. The Lieutenant-Governor is also fully satisfied with the progress reported by Mr. Kemble in all departments of his preparations for meeting the scarcity.

2. On the Bhaugulpore report the Lieutenant-Governor has to observe, with reference to—

Para. 5.—It would be satisfactory if the Collector could hereafter clear up the apparent discrepancy between the statements that food is comparatively cheap at, and is being exported from, Mudheypoorah, while at the same time it is not obtainable in quantity in the bazars.

Para. 27.—The Collector need not return bags until he has quite done with them; and can keep the grain in bags at the golahs if it is more convenient to do so than to keep it in bulk.

Para. 29.—The Collector and his sub-divisional officer should do what may be in their power to promote petty landed improvements by the aid of advances.

3. On the Purneah report the Lieutenant-Governor has only to remark, with reference to—

Section D.—That the Government will at once arrange for sending up 10,000 maunds more of Bengal rice to Caragola for transport to the Purneah golahs, and Mr. Toynbee has been advised accordingly.

4. The Monghyr report has only to-day (8th December) come in. It appears that Mr. Lockwood was travelling in the district: even now the Monghyr report is not nearly so full as the others. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that delay may not recur, and reminds Mr. Lockwood that his reply to circular No. 70 of 13th October was received later than the reply from any other district, although Monghyr is one of the most important distressed districts. The Lieutenant-Governor approves Mr. Lockwood's views regarding

the mode of paying for work and the necessity for keeping wages on relief works as low as possible. While prices rule at the rates given in Mr. Lockwood's first paragraph, there can be no need for giving high rates of wages. Mr. Lockwood's account of the prospects of the spring crops is re-assuring.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3861.

COPY, with copies of both the district reports, forwarded to—

The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, whose attention is invited to paragraph 4.

The Magistrate-Collectors of Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, and Purneah.

And one copy to the Commissioner of Patna, and the Commissioner of Rajshahye, and to Mr. LeF. Robinson, for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 9th December 1873.

W. E. B.

No. 1610, dated Bhaugulpore, the 1st December 1873.

From—V. T. Taylor, Esq., Collector of Bhaugulpore,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

I have the honor to submit herewith the first fortnightly narrative called for in Government circular No. 80 of the 17th instant.

A.—State of the country.

2. Beginning with Soopole and Mudehpoorah sub-divisions, north of the Ganges, where matters are more unfavorable than in the other portions of the district, the sub-divisional officers' reports contain the following remarks.

3. "*Soopole.*—Although prices cannot as yet be said to have reached to famine rates, there is a good of difficulty in procuring *readily* anything beyond a seer or two of any of the principal food-grains; but I attribute this not so much to the fact of small stocks in hand as to uncertainty as to the actual outturn of this season's crop, as well as to a desire to hold out till prices roll over higher."

"*Mudehpoorah.*—Supplies of grain of all kinds in the bazar are scarce; people with money can with the greatest difficulty get edible grain."

4. *Head-Quarters.*—There is no scarcity of supply in any bazar, and in the town I have reason to believe there is an abundance.

Banka.—The sub-divisional officer writes:—"There is now a good supply of food articles in the bazars of Banka, Umurpore, and Belhur, and others. This being the reaping season, they are more than usually to be had, the supplies being ample compared to the outturn produce of eight-annas in the year.

5. The *prices*, however, of grain in Soopole and Mudehpoorah hardly bear out the statements of scarcity and difficulty of procuring edible grains as at Pertabgunge, a large mart in the Soopole sub-division. Rice (coarse) is said to be selling at 15 or 16 seers the rupee (old rice); while the prices current at Bheemnuggur, "a mart of not much importance, are somewhat lower." *New* rice at the Peepra Bazar is selling at 16 seers, though as yet new rice has only been brought to market in small quantities. "Murwa is obtainable at half a maund per rupee." At Soopole itself murwa sells at the same rate, and rice 13 to 14 seers, notwithstanding the reported fact that it is only obtainable in small quantities.

6. *Mudehpoorah.*—The sub-divisional officer writes:—"Murwa is, if anything, more easily procurable than rice. This is selling at about 22 seers per rupee, while the coarsest rice is selling at about 13 seers."

7. Mr. Barnfather, who is working between the two sub-divisions west of Mudehpoorah, reports that where he is there was no difficulty in procuring supplies and old rice was selling at about 13 seers per rupee, and he was glad to say a shopkeeper had brought rice, salt, &c., on to the works for sale.

8. Rice is selling at head-quarters now at 12 seers 10 chuttacks, wheat at the same rate, and Indian-corn at 17 seers; these though dear are not at famine prices. The prices at Colgong range about the same.

9. At *Banka*, Barahat, Umurpore, Kholhat, Kutooria, Kurma, and Belhur, old rice is selling at prices varying from 12½ seers at Koorma to 14 at Banka per rupee, while the new varies from 15 at Koorma to 17½ at Banka; paddy varies from 25 to 32½, murwa 22 per rupee, wheat 12 to 14, and Indian-corn 16 at Koorma to 20 at Banka.

10. A comparative statement given below shows approximately the difference in prices of some of the food-grains, as far as can be ascertained, *now* and at the corresponding period of 1865, *i.e.*, the month of November:—

	Rice, 1st sort		Rice, common		Murwa.		Indian-corn.		Wheat.		
	1865	1873	1865	1873.	1865	1873.	1865	1873.	1865	1873	
	S. C.	S. C	S. C.	S. C.	S. C	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C	S. C.	
Soopole	10 1½	12 0	11 0¼	13 0	25 0	20 0	...	...		12 0	These sub-divisions were one in 1865. Indian-corn is hardly known in these parts, wheat is chiefly grown for exportation, and is rarely consumed.
Mudehpoora ...	10 1½	13 8	11 0¼	13 8	25 0	25 0	..	..	...	10 0	
Head-Quarters	10 0	10 0	11 0¾ old	12 10 old		..	16 0	17 0	15 2	12 10	
Banka	..	13 0	12 8 new 18 14	14 0 new 17 8	..	22 0	15 12	20 0	...	13 0	

11. Wheat is chiefly grown for exportation, and is but little consumed in the district; Indian-corn is hardly known north of the Ganges though largely consumed in the south of the district. In 1865 Mudehpoorah and Soopole were one and not two sub-divisions and only one price current was then submitted, probably an average of the different marts. From the satements given in the preceding paragraph it will be seen that rice is actually though but to a small degree cheaper now than in November 1865.

12. This is so difficult a question to deal with that I am loathe to record officially the quantities *said* to have been ascertained up to date or *believed* to be up to date in hand. I must state at the outset that the figures are not reliable, at any rate I don't believe in them myself; any deliberate enquiry on this matter brings forth from ryots bond protestations that they have not a grain and are *quite unable to pay their rents.* This was the constant recurring cry even from men who were clearly well-to-do, well-off, and with ample provision for themselves and families for some time to come. What appears to me from my personal observation to be uppermost in the minds of the ryots is not that they are in any danger of starvation or even distress, but that they cannot pay their rents. Since the withdrawal of rent suits from the revenue courts, I have very strongly pointed out the oppression practised on the ryots of the *Banka* sub-division, and for the past two years the subject has been referred to the High Court, and now in difficulties like the present where ryots will most undoubtedly if they can withhold payment of rents, there is no doubt that the *mustagirs* will take the law into their own hands and get hold of the crops. I have seriously warned one man who has gone to his estate and who has already begun the old trick of not allowing the rice crop to be cut by the ryot. I have mentioned this to show how difficult it will be to ascertain the quantity of grain any *ryot* has; he pleads abject poverty and inability to pay rent under any circumstances. Mahajuns, again, who may easily have 10,000 maunds of grain will declare they have but 1,000 if that.

* Any information obtained regarding the amount and kind of grain believed to be in store in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others.

13. Again, the people themselves are very apt to over-estimate in times like these, the stocks in the hands of mahajuns and traders; while the mahajuns themselves work in the other direction. With exportation daily going on to an unascertainable extent, the returns of one week are useless for the next. The Mudehpoorah sub-divisional officer records, from his personal enquiry, that in his sub-division, in most cases, the owners have under-stated the stores, even to the extent of one-half; and it is doubtful whether the time and trouble spent in endeavouring to ascertain the amount of grain in hand—enquiries which have *constantly* to be made, owing to the continual change going on—is time and trouble satisfactorily spent, when one knows how, I may say, completely unreliable the results really are. The information given for the town is absurd,

when the imports of rice for the month at the station are known to exceed the whole quantities given:—

	Rice.	Wheat	Barley.	Murwa.	Kullya.	Gram.	Miscellaneous
	Mds	Mds	Mds.	Mds	Mds	Mds.	Mds
				SOOPOLE.			
	54,140	1,3 0	...	40,133	...	...	26,684
				MUDEHPOORAH			
	10,898	3 7	77	28,096	80	1,113	15,250
				SUDDER.			
	9,060	45,150	705	5	3,445	821	14,810
				BANKA.			
Zemindars' and mahajuns'	6,055	380	65	920	65	144	1,187
Ryots,' for home consumption	1,675	25	...	...	.	...	319
Ryots,' which is available for export . .		.....	. .	.....		. .	...
Total . ..	7,730	405	65	920	65	144	1,506
Grand Total ...	86,828	47,252	847	69,164	3,590	2,078	58,250

The new form, as prescribed by the Commissioner, has not been as yet filled up for Sudder, Mudehpoorah and Soopole; but only the totals are given as received from the sub-divisional officer under the old form.

14. *Rainfall (if any).*—There has been no rain for a long time. There have been many clouds during the week since the 26th (on which day a slight shock of earthquake was felt), which have only now cleared off. Rain of course would be of no use to the rice crop which is now ripening fast and is being reaped. It is impossible now to state what outturn may be anticipated. The rubbee still promises well in the head-quarters sub-division, and I am glad to be able to report that in the other three sub-divisions wheat has been sown to a larger extent than usual, wells having been dug, and the fields irrigated; where the land has been watered the crops are reported as promising; though rain now would of course greatly improve the rubbee crops generally, yet I believe them to be perfectly safe as far as want of rain is concerned up to the middle of February.

15. *Condition of the people.*—The condition of the people, so far taking them altogether, is good. Just at present the poor classes are engaged in reaping the rice crop, and they will be so engaged for some time longer. The labouring classes south of Soopole and west of Mudehpoorah will find employment on roads already started, and by the time the real pressure is anticipated, all the roads in the north will be staked out and set going. It is in this portion where distress must be, I believe, felt, but not before the end of February, a considerable number of persons have been attracted to the road from Soopole to Bhootea *vid* Bungaon already, but as yet Mr. Barnfather reports there is no difficulty in supplying food. Similarly there will not be any distress in the head-quarters sub-division before March unless slightly south of Colgong and Ghoga, and any distress there can be immediately provided for. In the Banka sub-division there will probably be a little distress near Dhooria outpost, and in the neighbourhood of Kutooria thannah, but provision has been made (as regards road work (to meet this). The general health of the district has been never known to be so satisfactory; no cholera, small-pox, or fever, and I trust this will continue. I look forward to the end of February and March, and the subsequent

months till the new crops are ready for cutting with much anxiety, but I hope to have every possible measure of relief ready by the end of February with all grain stored. There have not been any grain thefts or robberies to speak of; one or two of the former have been reported as having occurred in Soopole sub-division, but nothing apparently beyond the usual thefts that occur. Nine cases from starvation were reported in the Soopole sub-division near Bungaon, but on careful enquiry starvation had nothing to do with it, six were diseased persons who might have died at any time; in the house of one a large quantity of grain was found, and two were of the lowest classes of labourers who had been ill with fever for a long time, and died possibly from deficient care.

B.—Relief Works.

16. I regret that information on this head has been delayed, and it cannot be given. The road from Milki to Gonowli north of the Ganges No. 5 project map previously submitted by the Commissioner, has been put in hand, but it only as yet gives employment to 200 to 300 labourers, who were paid by the piece; no difficulty in procuring food; laborers chiefly from the neighbouring villages; tools supplied by the District Engineer when the labourers possess none of their own.

17. Labourers are employed on the Mudehpoorah road (No. 1) from the 18th to 44th mile, but I have not been furnished with the number of men employed or the rate of wages, but full information will be forthcoming for the next Narrative.

18. Mr. Smith, the Deputy Collector of Soopole, has commenced marking out the road from Soopole, to Peepra (No. 15), and it will be completed before it is necessary to open the work.

19. Mr. Barnfather, District Engineer, has been marking out and staking the road from Soopole (Pursurma) to Bhootea *viâ* Bungaon (No. 19), and the first portion of it, seven miles, has been opened. Mr. Barnfather reports 1,000 men daily and gladly at work. Salesmen have voluntarily come to the road to supply the the persons employed on it. At present daily payments are made at the rate of two annas each. A good supply of kodalies is forthcoming, and all labourers, when possible, bring their own tools. The road from bungaon to Patorighat, No. 21, will be marked out next and will be ready as soon as required. The road No. 10, Singhessur to Pertabgunge, requires no staking out as the *old* track still exists, and the road to be made will follow that.

20. Roads Nos. 8 and 23 are in hand, but the number of workmen upon them has not been reported. Provisions are procurable at *Sookhasun*, and the labourers are residents of the neighbouring villages.

21. From 8th to 18th mile of Mudehpoorah is ready to be started at a moment's notice, very heavy earthwork being required as soon as it appears necessary.

22. *South of the Ganges* the road from Pointee to Barahaut is being marked out *No.* 16, and the 9 miles out of the 16 from Banka to Kutooria, No. 26; and the work is progressing,

C.—Transport of Food.

23. I find that during the month of November about 21,500 maunds (exclusive of Government grain) were imported by rail to the Bhaugulpore railway station against about 21,700 exported. Of the imports 14,396 maunds were rice; of the exports 6,580 were wheat and 2,512 only rice. Wheat is still being exported largely. The means of transport are, I think, sufficient, carts (the chief means of transport) being numerous. All Government rice arriving at the railway station is sent across the river Ganges in boats, whence it is taken north by carts; in time I expect to have a regular system of relays or changes of carts, when the rice will be moved up with all despatch. The next Narrative will give the quantity of rice imported, the quantity sent across the river, the store golah to which it is to be taken, and the quantity actually *en route*. The transport of grain has only just commenced, and no block has as yet been experienced. There are no special

transport trains; the ordinary carriage of the district is availed of, and the carts paid either by day at the market rate, or at contract rates of so much per maund carried; and I believe many more carts will soon be brought forward to be employed.

D.—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORK.

24. The following places have been selected for the present as the places of storage, and, as already reported, marked on the map previously submitted with a yellow flag:—

Name of road.	Number on map	Place of storage and letter on map.	Amount to be stored
North of Ganges			
Milki to Gounouli	5	Permeshapore (A)	1,000 mds. rice.
Mudehpoorah road, from 8th to 17th mile ...	1	Phoolout (B)	5,000 mds. rice. 1,000 mds Indian-corn. 1,500 mds. gram
Ditto from 18th to 44th „ ...	1	Mudehpoorah (C)	8,000 mds rice
Singhessur to Nathpoor	10	Peepra (D)	1,500 mds rice.
Pertabgunge to Beerpoor	11	Buloosbazar (E)	1,000 mds. rice
Soopole to Peepra	15	Soopole (F)	20,000 mds. rice. 500 mds. gram. 500 mds. Indian-corn.
Ditto to Bhootia	19		
Ditto to do.	19	Bungaon (G)	15,000 mds rice. 1,000 mds. Indian-corn.
*Bungaon to Putorighat	21	Sonebursa (H) ...	5,000 mds rice 500 mds. gram.
South of Ganges.			
Banka to Kutooria	26	Kutooria (I)	2,500 mds Indian-corn 2,500 mds. gram
Kutooria to Chundun	28		
Ditto to Simultulla	27		

25. Golahs will have to be erected at Phoolout, Mudehpoorah, Peepra, Bhuloua Bazar, and Kutooria, and some at Bungaon. Arrangements can be made at Permeshapore (A) for the quantity required to be stored, and thanks to the liberality of Baboo Hurbullab Narain Singh, golahs for storing the required amount at Sonebursa will be placed at my dispoasl. Mr. Christian of Bungaon has also kindly placed all his granaries there at my service, and but little extra accommodation will be required. Mr. Hennessy, of Narainpore, has kindly placed a half way house at Kashnugger at my disposal, where grain can be safely kept to enable carts to come back to the Ganges for more rice, and the sub-divisional carts will remove it from Kashnugger. Mr. Christian of Putturghat and Mr. Hennessy are coming forward in a most praiseworthy manner in supplying carts for carriage of the grain.

26. There being no necessity to spend a pice more than it is possible to avoid, no arrangements are as yet made for the administration of storage houses. The first thing is to get the quantity for each golah stored as soon as possible, and the police will guard the golahs. Before the pinch comes, and it is necessary to open the golahs for use, proper persons will be appointed to have charge of them. Entertaining men for this purpose now would be a waste of money.

27. The amount of food-grain actually received is rice 16,550 maunds and Indian-corn 5,000 maunds. The whole of the former has been sent across the river, and 3,402 maunds are actually on the way in 260 carts towards Soopole and Mudehpoorah. Of the latter, 2,500 maunds have been sent to Simultullah railway station (Chord Line) 10 miles distant from Katoria, its ultimate destination, and 2,000 maunds have been sent across the river, and 500 maunds are now crossing. No grain is now waiting transport at the railway station; more is expected however to-day. Empty bags will be returned as soon as the grain is properly stored, a sufficient number being kept back for internal transport, should such become necessary.

28. The amount promised for the district is not overmuch, should any very great distress arise and consequent relief measures become necessary. The Commissioner has, I believe, asked that the stock be raised to a lakh of

maunds, a precaution which appears prudent. The balance can be held in reserve or placed at one or two other selected places, as everything should be ready by the end of February, when as stated above, the commencement of distress may unfortunately be anticipated.

Advances to private parties.

29. No advances for purchase and storage of grain have been applied for or granted to private persons or the municipality. No advances to private parties have been made for land improvements, though the offer of Government has been and is being made known throughout the district.

F.—Charitable Relief.

30. No actual relief operations have been commenced, nor are any necessary at present.

31. Each sub-divisional officer has been supplied with a copy of the map of his sub-division, together with full instructions to carefully consider and report the sites of relief centres for the three degrees of famine as directed in the Government circular. These will all be ready before the necessity for putting the relief work into operation arises.

G.—Financial results of the week.

32. The only sums as yet advanced and known to have been expended is given below. The District Engineer has not yet furnished me with details of expenditure on roads. All relief work is to be considered as road-cess work, and I have therefore only shown the amount advanced under the Commissioner's order, and how I have made use of the same :—

Expenditure during the period under report.

	Rs.	A.	P.
On disbursements to the District Engineer for relief works ...	8,000	0	0
Ditto to Deputy Collector of Mudehpoorah for relief works	1,000	0	0
Total ...	9,000	0	0

On disbursements to officers in charge of transport arrangements Rs. 1,456-4, viz :—

Through Nazir Collectorate	856	4	0
" Deputy Collector of Banka	100	0	0
" Ditto of Mudehpoorah	250	0	0
" Ditto of Soopole	250	0	0
Total ...	1,456	4	0

No. 68F, dated Purneah, the 7th December 1873.

From—W. Kemble, Esq., Collector of Purneah.

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I have the honor to forward herewith my narrative of events up to Saturday last, called for in paragraph 27 of your circular No. 80, dated 17th November 1873.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Purneah District for the week ending November 29th.

A.—State of the Country.

It is very difficult to ascertain what quantity of rice or other grains are in store. The great mart of this district is Kusbah, where the stock is estimated from 10,000 maunds to 1,00,000 maunds. Mr. Wyer visited this place yesterday and found importation from the villages bordering on the Kosi going on, and also, notwithstanding the prohibition of the Nepal authorities, considerable quantity of new rice had been brought from the Morung. From Kusbah rice is exported eastwards. As this is a place of trade, not store, I am inclined to think that there cannot be more than 25,000 maunds stored up here.

The sub-divisional officers in Kishengunge and Arrareah, Baboos Rajani Nath Chatterjee and Srinath Bhadra in the sudder sub-division, and I myself, have made enquiries in the villages. In the smaller villages I found that the quantity in store was on the average about 100 maunds, but in the larger marts it was about 5,000 maunds on the average. Mr. Rattray at Arrareah estimates the stock of rice in his sub-division at 50,000 maunds, which is I think pretty correct.

Kishengunge probably has the same.

Rice is now being imported from Calcutta, and was selling this morning in Purneah at Rs. 4 per maund. At Kusbah the price was nominally the same, but the weight of the maund is different, being 85 sicca weight.

In Arrareah, at the marts of Jaki and Moulagunge, it is selling now at 14 seers per rupee. Near the Kosi it is cheaper—I hear 16 seers per rupee. The new crop is being cut, and in these last two neighbourhoods is yielding more than was expected. Mr. Rattray says that all the people in his neighbourhood will have enough rice to last them till April. If we only could get rain the rubbee crop here would be first-rate. We have had no rain but the wheat lately sown has germinated.

The condition of the crop and country in the east and south is, I am sorry to say, far worse; here the winter rice has yielded scarcely anything, in Kusbah, Amour and Kudbah the people are only taking one meal a day, and rice, if procurable at all, costs one rupee per 8 seers. There has not been so much rubbee sown here; what has been sown has germinated, but is being attacked by insects. I anticipate distress in these two thannahs first. In the south the mustard crop is doing well; this will I hope give an impetus to trade; in 1866 this crop saved the people, as mustard then sold for Rs. 3 a maund; now, however, it is only 1-8. The kesari and kurthi have here done well, but the area under cultivation is not large. I have heard of only one death which looks like a death from starvation, and have sent to make enquiries. To-day two poor creatures have been sent in from Bulrampur for stealing grain; it is a case of actual want; they said they had not had a meal for three days, and that they could not go to road-work,—it was too far from their homes. Of the cases which are noted in the annexed list, six are simply disputes about the prices, and the parties charged were in most cases well-to-do hearty man. The others are cases of petty burglaries and thefts from fields, the culprits being mostly undetected.

A Report of Thefts of Dhân in the District of Purneah from 1st October 1878, to date.

Name of Station.	Number of cases occurred.	Amount stolen.	Remarks.
		Rs. A. P.	
Police Station Suddor	6	15 2 0	
" " Gondwarah	1	5 0 0	
" " Kusbah Amour	2	5 8 0	
" " Dhamdaha	2	9 6 0	This case was one of violence, classified as dacoity undetected.
" " Kudbah	8*	15 0 0	* One case was simple dispute.
" " Manihari	0	0 0 0	
" " Bulrampur	16	501 2 0	Four cases mere property affray.
" " Kishengunge	1	80 0 0	
" " Kalliagunge	3	9 8 0	
" " Bahadoorgunge	5	10 12 0	
" " Arrareah	2	1 0 0	
" " Mathari	2	6 0 0	
" " Ranigunge	2	1 2 0	
Total ..	50	659 8 0	

W. Kemble,
Magistrate and Collector.

B.—Relief Works.

1. *North Road*, from Nathpore to Titalya, is being marked out by Mr. Fernie, Assistant Engineer, who will be assisted by one of the two recently-appointed Assistant Engineers. No work has yet commenced, but store-houses are being built.

2. *Road* 2.—Kishengunge to Nekmurd. Mr. Anley is now completing the survey of this line, and work will commence on it as soon as demand arises.

3. *Road from Dengrah Ghat towards the Dinagepore Frontier, at Boplah Tajpore.*—This road has been marked out by Mr. Anley up to Gouspore, within about a mile of the Nagur river, where the country is found to be low and swampy, and where the old line of road is lost. The point at which the river is to be crossed must be decided upon hereafter in consultation with the Dinagepoor Engineer.

The road is in charge of Khetternath Banerjea, Overseer, assisted by Ughore Chunder Mookerjea, Sub-Overseer. The people at first did not come in very readily, but a gang (100) are now at work near Dengrah, where food is procurable at about 8 seers per rupee. These men are paid two annas a day; if paid in grain, or allowed to buy from the Government golahs, many more would come in. They have been ordered to be paid daily, and money both in silver and copper has been sent out for them; tools have also been sent from the stock in possession of the Road Cess Committee. This is the only relief road (red in my map) on which work has actually commenced.

Road 4.—Dengrah to Arrareah.

Mr. Wren is surveying the line which is over very swampy ground; as there has hitherto been no road here, some care is required in selecting the best country. This line, as far as Kusbah Amour, will be ready to commence upon as soon as the new Engineers arrive.

Road 5.—Bulrampur to junction of Mohanundi and Nagur rivers. This is also a new line; it is being surveyed by Mr. Supervisor Burke, and will join the Maldah system of roads.

Road 6.—Hurreen Khoree, towards Maldah. An Engineer is required to survey this line.

Road 7.—Purneah towards the west to join Durbhangah system *viâ* Sirsoe at Durarah, called Nilkant on map. The first Engineer who comes will be sent to lay out this line, as directed by the Commissioner; but work need not be hurried here, as distress is less in this than in any other part of Purneah.

This completes the list of sanctioned (red) roads. None of the green roads have yet been laid out. There are only four in this class, viz.—

Arrareeah to Siktee.
Kusbah Amour to join North Road.
Bahadoorgunge to join North Road.
Kudbah to Barsoie.

These are mostly short tracks, except the Arrareah to Siktee line. The second line will be made in connection with the Kusbah, Amour and Arrareah road, and is under the same man, Supervisor Wren The real relief is now being given through the district roads, on six of which work has commenced.—

1. Titalya towards Dinagepore
2. Kalliagunge to Illwabari.
3. Purneah to Kudbah
4. Purneah to Sowraguddi.
5. Purneah to Mathari *viâ* Arrareah.
6. Ditto direct.

The greatest number of work-people have been obtained on the Kudbah road; all these are under the district Engineer, who has not furnished me yet with the number of work-people employed on each work as requested.

His last reports stated that village people would not come to work, but I have ascertained that during this last week they have overcome their scruples.

Employment has also been given to many persons by opening out village roads. Rs. 1,000 has for this purpose been sent to both the sub-divisional officers, and a grant of Rs. 50 has been made by me in the sudder. I am now arranging to make more of these grants, which are now most acceptable to the people.

Messrs. Ahmuty and Company have been written to for 1,000 kodalies for the Public Works Department. We have got up 600 for the district roads, and I have bought 200 in the bazaar, where I can get many more when wanted. Some of the work-people bring their own tools.

The supply of food is not yet cut off at the hâts, but it is necessary to go early to get any. The laboring class in many villages in Arrareah and in parts of Kishengunge are engaged in reaping the winter rice, and cannot be expected yet to turn out in any numbers to work. It is stated that many more will come when wages are paid in kind. On Mr. Rattray's road, Arrareah to Muzkuri, for which I have advanced, he had on November 26th, 87 men employed.

C.—Transport of Food.

I have not been able to ascertain with any degree of certainty how much food has been imported into the district. Some has come by boat to Dengrah, (I know of 1,900 maunds), and much more by Caragolah.

Two planters I know have imported 2,000 and 4,000 maunds respectively, and the Purneah mahajans are getting up supplies; they admit to having got up about 3,000 maunds.

The means of transport (country carts) are sufficient. I have arranged with two contractors to supply me with carts from Caragolah to any storehouse. All that I require is that rice sent to me shall be consigned direct to Caragolah, not to Sahebgunge. A quantity has been detained at the latter place for a few days, owing to a mistake on my part in thinking it could be sent direct to Caragolah; this will not occur again.

D.

The places of storage selected are as follow :—

1. Mutiari.	7. Kissengunge.	13. Gondwara.
2. Koorsakatta.	8. Kusbah Amour.	14. Saifgunge.
3. Rutoora river.	9. Dengrah Ghât.	15. Caragolah.
4. Powakhali.	10. Purneah	16. Gowalpokur.
5. Kalliagunge.	11. Bulrampore.	17. Ranigunge Naka.
6. Toorkali (Arrareah).	12. Kudbah.	18. Bahadoorgunge.

At all these places, golahs of various dimensions have been or are being built by the District Engineer. I also at once intend to build at—

19. Dengapore.	21. Hurrinkori.
20. Barsoe	22. Titalya.

For the custody of these places, the following persons have been appointed—

No	Names.	Extra salary. Rs.	Profession.
1.	Gowri Sankur	4	Pound-keeper.
2.	Mitturjit Singh	10	Mohurir.
3.	Isree Persad	10	Ditto.
4.	Kally Kumar Mitter	10	Ditto
5.	Kisto Kishore Mozoomdar	*Nil*	Abkaree Darogah.
6.	Mohamed Afzul Hossein	4	Pound-keeper.
7.	Modun Mohun Mozoomdar	*Nil*	Abkaree Darogah.
8.	Hera Lall	4	Pound-keeper.
9.	Ram Sarun Lall	4	Ditto.
10.	Mr. Lewis	*Nil*	Court Inspector.
11.	Doorga Persad	4	Pound-keeper
12.	Gyan Chand Mookerjea	*Nil*	Abkaree Darogah.
13.	Moharaj Sahai	4	Pound-keeper
14.	Sheikh Abdul Wahed	*Nil*	Abkaree Mohurir.
15.	Duleep Singh	4	Pound-keeper
16.	Majawar Hossein	4	Ditto.
17.	Rajendra Nath Mitter	10	School-Master.
18.	Lallit Ram	4	Pound-keeper.

To each of these men a book has been supplied in which all receipts and disbursements will be entered and the authority for the disbursement. I propose that authority for disbursement shall be given by the Engineer officer in charge of each work. Full instructions with the perwanah of appointment have been given. The golahs are constructed of bamboo mats on pucka or sâl-wood posts. A large shed is being built at Caragolah, and a large store-house will be built here to contain about 25,000 maunds as a reserve. The rice received and sent out by me up to date is as follows :—

	Maunds
Kalliagunge	630
Kishengunge	620
Ranigunge	750
Kusbah Amour	500
Arrareah	750

The Nazir has also despatched 2,000 maunds direct to Kudbah from Caragolah. The golahs ordered will not suffice for the custody of all the grain ordered. I shall build a large shed as a depot at Dengrah Ghat which is a central point and in a distressed part of the country. Smaller golahs will also be built as occasion requires. Bags will be returned by the store-keepers by the empty carts.

E.

The following advances have been made for purchase of grain from Dacca, Midnapore and Orissa :—

	Rs
To Babu Ram ChunderDass of Chandpore, to feed his own people, without interest	1,000
„ Mr. R. Cruise	1,000
„ J. Ramlall	1,000
„ Mr F. Cruise	2,000
„ „ J. M Becher	2,000

To those last the advance was made as to traders at 6 per cent. interest

To-day I have made many more advances to native traders which will come into next week's report. Great interest is taken in this, and applications are numerous, and my price-current list is consulted in a way it never was before. We have held a meeting of the municipality, but cannot arrange about a loan. Our municipality is very poor; but I hope to arrange for some petty works, such as tank-digging, being carried out. Numerous small works afford more real relief than a few large works.

The tuccavee advances are not fully understood here, but advertisements have been sent out and applications invited. I have heard of Meer Mahomed Kasim in Arrareah attempting irrigation.

I will write to him specially on this subject.

F.—Charitable Relief.

The places at which I propose to establish charitable relief first are—Purneah, Saifgunge, Dengrah, Kudbah, Caragolah or Gondwara.

The first to be under Mr. Ward, Judge of the district, who has kindly consented to do all in his power to aid in this work.

Saifgunge will be looked after by the Messrs. Shillingford, who have kindly promised to do all in their power.

Dengrah will be looked after by Babu Hem Chunder Roy, but probably a special officer will be stationed here.

I have asked Babu Srikant Jha, a gentleman of position and good character, to take charge of Kudbah, and Mr. Cave of Korah to help at Gondwara or Caragolah, whichever place suits us best.

If things get worse, I propose charitable relief should be given at Kishengunge, Bahadoorgunge, Illwapore, Bulrampore, Toorkeli (Arrareah), Kusbah Amour, and in case of things getting to the very worst, at Monihury, Hurrenkori, Belgutchee, Assuraghur, Rancegunge, Mutiari, Koorsakatta, Rutooa, Powakhali, Kalliagunge, Ramgunge, Titalya.

G.—Financial Results.

The expenditure up to date is as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Advanced to sub-divisional officer, Kishengunge, for village roads	1,000	0	0
,, to ,, ,, Arrareah	1,000	0	0
,, to ,, ,, Hadi Panjiari ...	50	0	0
On disbursement to Mr. Anley, District Engineer, on district roads and on relief roads	10,000	0	0
No accounts rendered.			
On account of purchase of tools (Ahmuty and Company)	1,077	0	0
,, ,, of Mohesh Lall, Purneah	150	0	0
2. On purchase of food—			
All done through Commissioner, amount not known.			
3. On transport arrangements—			
Advanced to Nazir at Caragolah	550	0	0
Paid to carters on arrival—			
At Purneah and for charges onward	350	0	0
,, ,, ,, ...	328	10	0
On account of establishment up to date	*Nil.*		
Total ...	14,505	10	0
On account of advances for purchase of food—			
To trustworthy residents	1,000	0	0
To traders and others	6,000	0	0
Total ...	7,000	0	0
Total Expenditure			
(a) Final payments	14,505	10	0
(b) Advances repayable	7,000	0	0
Total ...	21,505	10	0

W. Kemble,
Magistrate and Collector.

Jos. deC.

No. 1738, dated Monghyr, the 5th December, 1873.

From—E. LOCKWOOD, Esq., Officiating Collector of Monghyr.

To—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

IN sending my weekly report I regret very much that I am behind-hand. I intended that the Joint-Magistrate at head-quarters should write up the report, but I found subsequently that this could not possibly be done without me. I came in from the district as soon as I could; but as Mr. Campbell, the sub-divisional officer, has been confined to his house for some weeks, my presence in his sub-division has been absolutely necessary.

I take the opportunity of mentioning that I find an error in the weekly crop report written by the Joint-Magistrate. The rubbee crop generally is looking well, and is not in the hopeless condition described in the *Gazette*. In future I shall write these reports myself, whether at head-quarters or not. It appears to me that my report will supply the information required by Government; but if further information is necessary, I can refer you to my daily diaries sent to the Commissioner.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Monghyr District for the week ending Saturday, the 29th November, 1873.

(A.)—ABUNDANCE OR SCARCITY OF SUPPLY.

During a recent tour in the district, I inquired at every place I came to regarding the supply of grain, and received everywhere the same answer, namely, that although high prices prevail, supply meets the demand. This district is so advantageously situated as regards rail-roads, having both the loop and chord lines passing through it, that communication with other districts is generally complete.

Kind and price of grain selling at one or more special principal marts.

	Rice	Indian-corn.	Wheat.
Monghyr	12-6	15-7	12-6
Jamooi	14-7	16-8	13-6
Begooserai	13-6	17 5	14-1
Khagaria	13	16	13
Jellalabad	13	16	13

Regarding the amount and kind of grain in the hands of zemindars, traders, ryots, and others, it is impossible to give any very reliable opinion. On making inquiries, the people exchange significant glances, as though they would ask what we want to know for. I always assure them that my inquiries are only for the public good, and cannot possibly do them individually any harm. Thus assured, all profess to make a clean breast of it. Whether they speak truly or not is doubtful. I am afraid in many instances their statement cannot be relied on. The traders say they have enough to keep the place going until fresh supplies come in; the zemindars say they have a few maunds only to keep their families alive; and the ryots invaribly deny flatly that they have any grain in store, or at all events, that they have more than a month's supply. I have occasionally proposed to test the ryots' alleged indigence by requesting permission to search their premises, but, although permission is invariably given, and my suggestion generally causes a good deal of amusement among the by-standers, I have never thought proper to pursue the investigation further. I believe, however, that the landholders and middlemen have stored, or are storing, sufficient for themselves for some months, and generally also for future seed. The traders have hardly within the memory of man been doing so brisk a business, buying tons of grain to-day and passing it on to-morrow, whilst the ryots who have money are making every affort to fill the family golahs and keep themselves going until better times.

No rain has fallen south of the Ganges, but slight showers, hardly sufficient to lay the dust, have fallen in the Begooserai sub-divison.

Regarding the crops, I have lately passed rapidly through about 200 miles of the district; and although I find the rice crop has generally failed, I am glad to report that at least three-fourths of the rubbee crop has not only come up, but is looking very well. About one-half of the district is under rubbee, and if we have rain by New Year's Day, I anticipate at least average crops Wherever I have been, the ryots, who are ever anxious to show the dark side of the picture, have assured me that crickets and caterpillars, which they say tumble down from the sky, have completely eaten up everything; but this is a mistake I have examined the crops minutely everywhere, and find very little amiss; indeed the bhunt, or gram, is coming up so thick, that the owners are thinning it out, and eating what they gather as a wholesome vegetable. I was agreeably surprised after examining the fields, because crickets destroyed my tobacco and other plants in the public garden here and on my model dearah gardens, as fast as I could plant them. I am unable now, however, to say more than this: If rain falls before the end of the month, we may hope for a good rubbee crop; if we have no rain, I cannot say what the crop may be; and although I have inquired from zemindars, planters, ticcadars, and ryots, I have formed from their conflicting evidence no satisfactory opinion on the subject. It may be mentioned, however, that rubbee crops, particularly wheat, have tap roots, which penetrate deep into the soil and require very little rain.

Regarding the condition of the people, although the measures I have taken have, I believe, kept the poorer classes from starving or nearly so, any one riding through the district, as I have done, cannot fail to see unmistakeable signs of the scarcity of the times. During the past month I have marshalled the inhabitants of many villages to see how they are getting on, and I invariably found that they are living on very short commons.

The Mushirs, for instance, one of the pariah castes which enjoy a mushroom existence, increasing enormously in yearrs of plenty, but who even then only work out a wretched existence, are getting very squalid indeed, and look very little better than their pigs. The old women search the fields with greater zeal than ever for seeds of the mukra grass and roots, and the children's stomachs are dreadfully distended by spleen.

A chapter, not without interest, might be devoted to this race, their alleged serfdom, their improvidence, their dirt, and extraordinary digestion in consuming rats, jackals, and jungle roots with impunity. I have directed these persons to our works, and have supplied them as far as possible with tools; but generations of want have made them physically a degenerate race, and they have not strength or stamina to earn much on the roads The higher castes are still sleek and strong, and I do not think I could count a dozen Rajpoots and Brahmins on my relief works. The Brahmins in this district have dubbed themselves *padres*, and say the public must feed them.

Crime in this district appears to be in a normal state.

(B).—Relief Works.

I enclose a map which will show the number of points in the district where relief works are going on. The total number at present is 21. The number of laborers on the work is 6,490, and more are daily coming in.

Regarding the mode of payment and rate of wages, I enclose a memorandum (marked A), which I have drawn up and distributed among my subordinates. The conditions which I have laid down for payment appear to be rather too seductive; and although I find the rate of wages, after consultation with every one likely to give me information on the subject, I am deligently reconsidering the matter with a view to ascertain whether I am not unwillingly overstepping the intentions of Government, and doing more than keeping the poor from starving by opening my relief works. Further report on this subject will be submitted.

N.B.—It must be remembered, however, that the people of Behar supply laborers all over Bengal emigrating early for this purpose. Of course they won't emigrate if they find work at home.

I have over 5,000 kodalies and some 1,500 pickaxes for the hard soils towards the hills; but every one who has a kodali is compelled to bring it.

There is not much difficulty regarding the supply of food at the works, but I encourage petty tradesmen to keep a shop on the works.

(C.)—Transport of Food.

Regarding private food-supplies, I can only ascertain this with any accuracy by examining the railway books, which I do on every occasion. The import of grain into the district is very considerable.

Regarding the influx of grain by ordinary roads, I have no means of judging. The means of transport are in a most satisfactory condition, and there is no difficulty whatever in the matter. I found, however, on Monday last, an almost impassable quagmire on the road between Luckeserai and Sheikpura, over which hundreds of my carts and carts of dealers had to pass somehow or other. The neighboring zemindars and merchants did not trouble themselves in the matter, but Major Waller and I collected a gang of men, and had the place filled up.

(D.)—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

I have selected places for storage, and everything is satisfactory under this head. The zemindars and indigo planters have generally supplied me with ample room. We have large quantities of grain already housed at Sheikpura, under Shah Abdul Hossen; at Khagaria, under Mr. Dear; at Monghoul and Sisownee, under Mr. Crowdy; and from these central points the grain can be moved on as required. At each railway station I have also ample accommodation.

(E.)—Advances to Private Parties, and their Results.

Rupees 25,000 has been advanced to Mr. Dear for the purchase of grain, and several gentlemen have promised to apply for advances. The Monghyr and Jamalpore Municipalities are prepared to ask for loans directly the state of affairs appears to require them.

Regarding advances to private individuals for land improvements, I have had the Government resolution widely circulated, and have explained the matter to every zemindar and planter I have seen. Many have expressed much satisfaction, and have promised to apply. One application only has been as yet made by a Mussulman, on the condition that no interest is demanded, payment of interest being contrary to the Moslem creed. I think, however, that gradually many applications will come in. The zemindars, however, generally refer me to the ticcadars, and the ticcadars beg to be excused on the plea that they have no permanent interest in the soil. One gentleman, who describes himself as an accountant at Simla, has applied for a loan of Rs. 200, with which he promises ultimately to do much good in my district, although at present he appears to have no connection whatever with it.

The great drawback to improvement of estates in this district, however, is that the *old* country gentry, what with litigation with their neighbours, and family quarrels, are so much involved, as to be able to afford no assistance. The rich landholders are generally money-lenders of the Ralph Mickelby class, who so far from improving their estates screw the last pice out of the ryots.

(F.)—Charitable Relief.

Arrangements for charitable relief are being made throughout the district.

Although feeding sleek Brahmins is considered a meritorious action, I do not suppose native gentlemen see much merit in exerting themselves in behalf of pariahs.

(G.)

The relief works and the district works are identical, and are as yet all under the Assistant Engineer in charge, Baboo Ramruttun Mozoomdar. All money passes through his hands in the ordinary manner. Rs. 22,000 has been

placed to his credit on account of advances for purchase of food; Rs. 25,000 to Mr. Dear on disbursements to persons in charge of transport arrangements. Rs. 1,000 have been advanced to Shah Abdul Hossen, Honorary Magistrate at Sheikpura, as he has undertaken the transport of Government grain to his store-houses; Rs. 400 have been advanced to the Nazir for the same purpose.

(*A.*)

Memorandum by the Magistrate of Monghyr regarding payment of earth-work,—dated Monghyr, the 3rd December, 1873.

THE system hitherto followed by the Public Works Department in this district as regards earth-work, is to let the work out in petty contracts, paying the contractor Rs. 2-2 to 2-14 per 1,000 cubic feet. The contractor is supposed to pay the coolies Rs. 1-14 per 1,000 cubic feet; but I believe the rule is that the contractor makes the best bargain he can, never paying more than Rs. 1-14, but generally paying less. But supposing even that the contractor getting Rs. 2-4 and pays 1-14 to the coolies, in every Rs. 60,000 Rs 10,000 of our money goes to the ticcadars, who are in every case mere speculators, and in many instances idle ruffians, whose trade is plunder.

I doubt very much whether the ticca system is a good one at any time. In times of plenty, however, much harm is not done, as coolies then won't work unless they get properly paid, but in times of scarcity I think this system is a very bad one, and not to be allowed.

The only excuse for ticca or "mate" system (mates, so far as I have seen, merely look on, and are ticcadars under another name) is that it saves the Engineer a good deal of trouble, and the Government a certain amount of establishment.

The ticcadars, I am told, reject all but able-bodied men who can get through the work fast and earn a good deal of money for them.

Regarding the establishment saved, the saving, on one hand, is not to be compared to the expense of the other. The department has to keep up an establishment to look after the ticcadars, besides paying them, as I have said before, Rs. 10,000 in every Rs. 60,000 or Rs 80,000, which sum would more than pay any extra establishments required for khas payments.

I am accordingly doing my best, with the full concurrence of the laborers themselves, to put a stop to the ticca system, and subtitute for it the following system.

Bamboos, 10 feet long with the feet marked off, are to be brought on the ground, available for any one wishing to use them.

The coolies are to be encouraged to work by families or gangs, each family or gang selecting its working representative for payment.

Before commencing work the land to be dug out is to be measured and nicked 10, 20, or 30 feet wide, exactly according to the height of the embankment, thus:

A. A. 10 × 10 claims

W. W. earth wall, left to separate claims.

When the work is so measured off, the gangs can take as many claims as they can dig out, and receive at the rate of Rs. 1-14 per 1,000 cubic feet, or three annas per 100 cubic feet. This method will enable the overseer to measure up the work easily; and by merely counting the claims dug out, the Magistrate will be able to see, after comparing accounts with the cashier, whether the work has been properly paid for. Every opportunity should be taken to tell the coolies along the line what rate per 100 cubic feet they can claim.

The overseer will have about 1,000 men under him where the work is in a small space, and he will move up and down the line paying for each excavation as it is dug out, breaking down the wall (*shaki* or witness) when the work is paid for.

He will not pay in cash, but will present the representative coolie with a cheque, thus (this arrangement is approved by all the coolies I have spoken to):

No. 1.	No. 1.
(Counterfoil to be by kept by the Overseer.)	Pay A. B. | Date Rupees | Place For feet of earth-work. (Sd.) C. D., *Overseer.*

Cashiers are appointed to go over, say, 10 miles; for instance, as between A. B. He has a *basa* at each place, and he moves up and down the line, paying up the cheques which he keeps, and sends in for record from time to time.

At A. I have placed Rs. 1,000 in the hands of W. X., a rich banker, who kindly keeps it for me, having given a receipt for it. At B. Y. Z. a zemindar, and Honorary Magistrate, keeps it, paying the cashier as he requires at hundred rupees at a time. Pice and small coin to a considerable extent being supplied.

The above system I have set in motion, and it is unanimously approved by the coolies and the public. It entails a considerable establishment of overseers. But from a recent tour I am convinced that it is a good system, and should be followed wherever famine relief works are going on.

RESOLUTION.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF

Calcutta, the 11th December 1873.

READ—

The first set of Fortnightly Narratives received from the distressed districts of the Rajshahye Division, bringing the history of affairs down to the 29th November 1873.

Date of the receipt of the reports—

Dinagepore	..	..	..	..	December	4th.
Bograh	..	..	..	..	"	3rd.
Rajshahye	..	..	..	..	"	3rd.
Maldah	..	..	..	..	"	3rd.
Rungpore	..	..	..	..	"	4th.

1. The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to find that these narratives were despatched punctually.

2. Except in Rungpore, food seems still procurable at the high prices quoted, and absolute distress is not yet reported. In Rungpore, however, where the people in ordinary years refuse to labour for hire, relief work is readily taken up, and from some parts of the district food is reported to be very scarce.

3. There is a general consensus of opinion that in some parts of the country the stocks of food are small. The Collector of Rajshahye estimates that in the tract of country within a radius of six to eight miles from the station of Beauleah there are 25,000 maunds of rice in the hands of small mahajuns. The tract of country to which he alludes contains some 75,000 souls. The Collector of Maldah estimates that one-fourth of the ryots in his district have two to six months' supply, and that the rest are dependent on local markets. It seems to be the custom in these districts for ryots to retain the produce of the early rains crop for their own consumption. In Rungpore home-grown rice is no longer obtainable in the markets. In Maldah new rice of the late rains crop is said to be already selling in the market. The information offered regarding food-stocks is necessarily very imperfect and doubtful. In some parts of the division it is hoped that the people have some stocks.

4. The prospects of the crops now on the ground have not materially improved. From Bograh a rather more favorable report is received. In Maldah, on the other hand, the rice now being reaped turns out worse than was anticipated. As the harvest progresses, Collectors should be particularly careful to note how far the actual outturn exceeds or falls short of the estimates.

5. People are said to be feeding on roots in parts of Rajshahye and Rungpore. If this statement means that the people in question cannot get any food but wild roots, it is certainly a sign of distress having commenced; and the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the facts have been ascertained by a responsible officer, and have not been reported on the information of native subordinates without special inquiry. Other facts reported do not by any means show that the condition of the people is as yet bad. No unusual cases of misery and starvation are specifically reported, nor are grain-thefts on the increase.

6. The district officers deserve credit for their promptitude in opening relief works. But the Lieutenant-Governor must very strongly urge upon them the necessity of keeping the rates paid down to a scarcity standard. The relief works are opened thus early in the season, as much with a view of testing the condition of the people as to relieve distress. If high rates are paid, these works lose all their value as a gauge of the condition of the people. Though it is not quite clear, it might seem from the statements that in Rajshahye 3 annas a day is being paid as wages to coolies, and a rate for taskwork (Rs. 2-8 the 1,000 feet) which enables them to earn 5 annas a day. In Maldah, again,

the rates for taskwork are from Rs. 2-8 to 3-4. In Dinagepore, on the other hand, only 2½ annas a day is paid as a maximum. In Rungpore, where the rate has been carefully adjusted to enable a laborer with reasonably hard labor to earn 3 annas a day, Re. 1-14 is charged per 1,000 cubic feet. The price of food is quite as high in Rungpore as elsewhere. The Lieutenant-Governor requests that special attention may be paid by the Relief Commissioner, by the Magistrates, and by the Engineers, to the question what rates are to be paid on relief works, and that in the next narrative the grounds on which the rate has been determined may be stated. The Lieutenant-Governor considers the action of the Maldah Magistrate in "raising the rates to make the works popular" to be ill-judged. The very last thing the Government wishes to do is to attract to relief works people who employ themselves and maintain their families by working in the fields, at silk factories, or elsewhere. His Honor, however, is quite in accord with the opinion expressed, that a petty contract system is inapplicable to relief works, though he quite approves in the present state of piece-work by families and small gangs.

7. The means of transport available seem sufficient for present requirements. At present, however, grain appears to be moving very little. As the consignments of Government rice for relief works arrive, transport facilities will be more fully tested. The Lieutenant-Governor much trusts that the grain despatched will be forwarded to the store-houses in the interior without any delay. Officers have already been advised to pay special attention to the subject of providing fodder for bullocks on the chief lines of communication.

8. Satisfactory arrangements for the storage of grain have been or are being generally made. The next narrative from Bograh will doubtless contain more complete information on this point.

9. No advances have yet been made for the purchase of grain, for municipal works, or for land improvements. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts this point will receive the consideration it merits. Especially is he anxious to hear whether local traders are willing to take advances.

10. In Maldah only have the local officers deemed it necessary to organize arrangements for charitable relief. It is hoped that the necessity for the actual distribution of relief on a large scale has not yet arisen, but the Magistrate is to be commended for thus early making preparations for meeting the necessity when it arises.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor thanks the Commissioner Mr. Molony, the Relief Commissioner Mr. Robinson, and the officers subordinate to them, for their prompt and energetic action. This first series of fortnightly narratives shows that the careful supervision exercised by the Commissioner of the division and the Relief Commissioner has borne fruit.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3904.

COPY, with copies of the district reports, forwarded to—

The Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division.

The Magistrate-Collectors of Dinagepore, Bogra, Rajshahye, Maldah, and Rungpore.

And one copy to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore and to Mr. LeF. Robinson for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 11th December 1873.

D. E. J.

No. 11, dated Dinagepore, the 1st December 1873.

From— W. LeF. Robinson, Esq., Magistrate and Collector of Dinagepore, On Special Duty,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

Narrative of scarcity and relief in Dinagepore district for the week ending Saturday, 29th November 1873.

(A).—State of the Country.

I have heard of no complaints of scarcity of supply in any of the hauts or bazars where I have been of late. There is a tendency to rise in prices at some places; at others it declines; for instance, about Tambooly, where I was on Saturday, prices were slightly lower; at Dinagepore again I hear to-day they are slightly higher; and the same is the case, I heard on Saturday, at Gungarampore. At Raigunge, on Thursday last, rice was selling at 10½ seers of 80 tolahs per rupee; coarse rice at 13 seers. Here the price was, I am told, yesterday from 11 to 12 seers for what is called *mota chaul*.

Most of the rice in stock is either in the hands of zemindars or large ryots; traders have but little. I had a meeting of munduls and prodhans from the country round Tambooly at that place on Saturday, some 20 or 30 in number; they all admitted having a certain amount in hand, varying from 300 to 1,500 maunds, and I believe nine out of ten of them put down less than they really had. All except two expressed their intention of keeping what they have got. Of the other two, one was a trader, with 500 maunds for sale; the other, a mundul, with 1,000 maunds of dhan for sale, besides 300 or 400 maunds of rice damaged by a fire in his house, which he gave as his reason for wishing to sell all he did not require. He said men had come from Maldah and offered to take the bad rice and good dhan together at Rs. 2-8 a maund, and I might have it at the same price if I liked. I was very nearly closing with his offer, when a voice in the crowd, instantly backed by many others, suggested that if I bought at Rs. 2-8, which he asserted was too high a price (Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-4 being, according to him, the proper price), that would be looked upon as a kind of Government *nirik* of the price, and every one would refuse to sell for less. There can be no doubt that there was a good deal of truth in this remark, and of course I declined further dealings to buy. I mention the circumstance merely to show what difficulties do arise about things apparently simple enough. It may perhaps be as well that I should say I had the Commissioner's sanction to purchase 1,000 maunds on the spot, if I could without disturbing the market.

I hear to-day that some rice is being bought in Dinagepore itself for export to Maldah and Silligooree, which accounts for the slight rise in prices.

Rainfall, none luckily; it has looked very like it all the week, but no rain has fallen; it would only do harm now to the rice which is ripe, without benefiting the bad, and it would spoil what mustard crop there is in flower. The condition of the people is tolerably good on the whole. I have only heard of two cases of actual misery, both old widows with no means of support, referred to under F.

Grain-thefts are, however, becoming more common, and I hear of one man caught in the act having been murdered. This was in the Hemtabad direction, where Mr. Jones is at work.

I do not think that there is any special tract of country which requires special mention beyond what is given below.

(B).—Relief Works.

Sub-Deputy Collector Hurree Mohun, with head-quarters at Gungarampore, has in hand the new roads from that place; *first*, to Kordoho; *second*, to Lushkurhaut; *third*, to Tambooly; and I have ordered him to commence a *fourth* from Gungarampore to Foolbarry on the Dinagepore Godagaree road, to be taken on ultimately to Patiram. He has about 2,000 men at work, and is doing it right well. The labourers are in fair condition; get their supply of food in the hauts in the locality; are paid twice a week in cash at the rate of two and a half annas per day for men, and one to two annas for boys, according to size; most of them bring their own tools, such as axes and kodals, but some are supplied from stock purchased here. A special application on the subject is going in.

At Raigunge Mr. Jones is making the roads from Raigunge to Chooramun, Raigunge to Kallyagunge, and Raigunge to Hemtabad and Moloon. He will this week, I hope, be able to commence a fresh road to connect with Tambooly or thereabouts on the Dinagepore Maldah road. Mr. Jones had 779 men at work last Thursday. His men are paid in the same mode and at the same rate as Baboo Hurree Mohun's. Mr. Culdwell, Overseer, Public Works Department, is at Lushkerhaut on the Dinagepore Godagaree road; and another overseer, Public Works Department, has been sent out to Bindole, with order to commence at once on the Purneah road, and connect it with the Dingraghat one.

A Public Works Department overseer is at work on the Maldah road. He has 200 men of neighbouring villages now at work. Another Public Works Department overseer is on the Dinagepore Darjeeling road. I have not yet received his return of workmen. All these officers say that labour is coming in freely and increasing constantly. The increase will, I think, be much greater as soon as the rice is cut.

(C).—Transport of Food.

The only private supplies I have heard of from outside are 1,000 maunds to Raigunge from Calcutta and 250 maunds to Neetpore from Dacca by private parties, but neither actually occurred last week but the week before. There is plenty of transport available by boats where there are rivers, by carts and pack bullocks on land. No lack exists anywhere that I know of; no special transport trains are at work here, as Major Lindsay did not think it necessary to have one at present from Rajmehal. I am not afraid of transport breaking down if carts-men, boat-men, and bullock-drivers are properly paid.

D.

Patnitola, Patiram, on Atrai river; Neetpore, Kordoho, Nayabazar, Gungarampore, on Poornabahha; Tambooly and Kalikamoona on Tangow; Ballea, Nowabgunge, and Chooramun, on Mohanunda; and Raigunge on the Koolik, have already been selected. Store-houses are being built in most of these places, but where suitable golahs are available for storing, I propose to hire them. Wherever there is a police station they will be guarded by the police, and merely a store-keeper appointed on Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 a month until the rice is required for use. At other places I shall also put a store-keeper, and probably indent for a guard of a couple of policemen permanently for each. No grain has yet been received, consequently the other points need not be touched on.

E.

No advances have been made to private parties or municipalities. Two zemindars have asked for Rs. 20,000 worth of rice each at Godagaree for their estates. The subject has been sent up to the Commissioner. If the rice is put down at Godagaree they will transport to their estates.

(F).—Charitable Relief.

I have arranged with Radha Gobind Roy Saheb, zemindar here, who has a private charity establishment, that any cases of actual misery and starvation should be sent to him for the present, and as yet only two cases have occurred of old women, one at Patiram, one at Kallyagunge, which have been ordered to be sent to him. No actual operations can be said to have been commenced. I have not as yet been able to carry out the instructions of paragraph 18 owing to absence from the station, but will do so this week in conjunction with Magistrate and Collector.

(G).—Financial Results.

I cannot report so fully as required on this point without missing the post. Roughly speaking, I must have spent somewhere about Rs. 10,000 up to date, but I will report fully in a day or two. I only came this morning, and have been unable to get all details from Collector's office.

In fact, my narrative this time is a most hurried one, as I have really not a moment to spare to it till to-day, but I hope to get matters in better form by next week, and I hope the shortcomings of this report will therefore be pardoned.

W. E B

No. 727, dated Bogra, the 1st December 1873.

From—C. A. KELLY, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Bogra,

To—The Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, Statistical Department.

WITH reference to paragraph 27 of your Circular No. 80 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honor to forward the first fortnightly narrative called for. The preparation of this narrative has been entrusted to Baboo Madhav Chandra Maitra, a Deputy Collector of long experience in this district, and well qualified for the task.

I hope to submit my own monthly narrative shortly, and will not add much now, especially as it is necessary to send this report by to-day's post. Each thannah in the district has been visited in the past month by the Sub-Deputy Collector and Deputy Collector Baboo Govinda Kanta Vidyabhushan.

I beg to submit a list of relief roads in substitution of the list sent by the Deputy Collector. The terms used by him are meant to describe the same roads, but my list describes them better. I am glad to be able to give on the whole a more favorable account of our prospects in Bogra. In the west and north-west of the district the crops in parts are good. In the east the state of the crops is not good. Two of our relief roads, *viz.*, the first and ten miles of the 5th from Sultangunge are ready for work when demand arises. Other roads will be ready shortly. The one to Shariakandi, to give employment in the east, I expect will be ready in a week. Great assistance is being given by the Bogra Municipality, who are employing a number of people in filling up large pits, a work, I may add, urgently needed on sanitary grounds. Bogra can stand a bad season much better than many other districts, as it generally has large harvests and exports largely. I understand too that owing to the lowness of the rivers this year a large quantity of rice that would otherwise have been exported has remained in the district. Still we must be prepared for whatever the course of events may bring about. I have only heard of two cases of distress, such as might occur at any time when prices are high, and of no cases of death from starvation. Details of the above-mentioned cases will be given in my monthly narrative. I close now as I must catch the post.

P. S.—No regular relief works are worked upon at present, but relief is being given by sanctioned road work and by the Municipality for which I have lately directed the purchase of some *kodalis*. We shall be able to supply carts when needed to transport any food supplies of which we may be in want. I have been asked whether I can supply means of transit for food for the employés on the new State railway which is to pass through this district. I can send a number of carts required, and have written to ask the number, and when they are wanted. I am not aware of any block on our transport routes. Steps will be taken this month for marking places as our store-houses for relief works. We have good points for importation in east, south, and west. Some importation has taken place in the last week from the east on which I will report hereafter.

List of Relief Works.

First feeder road will go *viâ* Dupchanchea and Adamdighi to Sultanpore.

Second from Khetlal or any place adjacent to Badalgachi with branch to Jamalpore, Bazoorgi.

Third to connect the Bograh and Dinajpore road with the railway from near Lalbazar.

Fourth from Shibgunj to join the Dinajpore road at Khetlal or at some point at or near Barigunj.

Fifth from Sultangunj in the south of thanna Bograh to lead *viâ* Sabrul and Durgapore to Elahegunj and from Elahegunj to Adamdighi.

Sixth from Bograh to Shariakandi (not a feeder road.)

Seventh from Lalbazar to Ghoraghat.

C. A. KELLY,
Offg. Collector.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the District of Bograh for the week ending Sunday, the 30th November 1873.

(A)—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

1. Supplies are still abundant in the bazars.

2. Best kind of new rice selling at 21 seers (of 60 tolas to the seer), and old rice at 20 seers at the Suddar Station here, and at Dupchanchea new rice at 22 seers, and the old rice at 20 seers.

3. About 70,000 maunds of old rice may be roughly estimated to be in stock in the district now in the hands of zemindars, mahajuns, and cultivators, &c.

4. No rain at all during this month. State of the crops is bad in a greater part of the district except in low lands. The condition of the people not very bad as yet. No cases of actual misery and starvation have yet been known. Ten cases of grain thefts have been reported up to date by the Police.

The condition of the people of the eastern part of the district is more distressing than other parts of the district.

(B)—RELIEF WORKS.

5. Seven relief roads including feeders have been proposed in the district of which one has already been pegged out and another is being pegged out by an overseer of the Public Works Department.

The first relief road will go from Dupchanchea *viâ* Adamdighi to Sultanpore, or to a point four miles to the west of Adamdighi, where there will be a railway station.

The second from Khetlal to Badalgachi, with a branch road to Jamalpore, Buzria.

The third from Lalbazar to Purana-âpoil.

The fourth from Lalbazar to Ghoraghat.

The fifth from Sibgunge to Khetlal.

The sixth from Sultangunj *viâ* Sabrul, &c., to Adamdighi.

The seventh from Bograh to Sariakandi.

No laborers have yet been employed in any of these roads, necessity for relief not having as yet occurred. Men will be employed on the Dupchanchea or the first road as soon as relief is needed on that part of the district. It is very likely that work on the sixth or the Sultangunj line will have to be commenced upon at first, as it is close to the station, and there has been a failure in the rice crop in the villages all around. No reply is necessary now as regards the other parts of this paragraph. It may be mentioned here that for the purpose of relief the Municipal Committee of Bograh have commenced to fill up several large holes in the town, and in which 154 coolies are employed up to date. The Committee have assigned or will assign Rs. 1,263-12-0 for the purpose already.

(C)—TRANSPORT OF FOOD.

I am informed that both rice and paddy are being imported from towards Goalundo and the Eastern districts to the Sariakandi thannah. The supernumerary Deputy Magistrate, who was deputed to visit that part of the district, will I hope be able to supply the information as to what quantity of food is actually imported during the week. In no other part of the district food has been imported from elsewhere. There is means enough for transport of grain in the district by means of carts. The other parts of this head need not be answered now, no necessity respecting them having yet occurred.

(D)—STORAGE OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN AT RELIEF WORKS.

Places of storage will be selected shortly and will be reported in the next narrative. Other parts under this head need not be reported now.

(E) AND (F).

No information on these two heads can be given now, no operations respecting them having been commenced, there being no necessity as yet.

MADHAV CHANDRA MAITRA,
Deputy Collector.

No. 691, dated Beauleah, the 1st December 1873

From—W. H. D'Oyly, Esq., Collector of Rajshahye,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

With reference to paragraph 23 of your Circular No. 80, dated 17th ultimo, I have the honor to submit my first weekly (now changed by circular No. 87 to a fortnightly) report.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Rajshahye District up to Saturday, 29th November 1873.

A.—State of the Country.

In the bazar at Beauleah, as far as can be ascertained, the stores of coarse husked rice are very small. On Wednesday 26th, from inquiries made it appeared that the mahajuns, wholesale dealers, had only 1,500 maunds in store, while the retail shop-keepers, some 30 in number, had about 500 maunds. Supplies are coming in daily chiefly from Tegatchi in the Nattore sub-division, a portion of which comes by boat from the east. It is brought to Beauleah partly in carts that have taken sugar to Nattore from this, and partly in boats from Tegatchi to Nowhatta, and thence by cart into Beauleah. I have seen a very large number of carts coming this way with paddy, and also many going towards Nattore with sugar. The figures given above are for *husked* rice. It has been ascertained that within a circle of six or eight miles round the town there are about 25,000 maunds in the hands of small mahajuns. During the last week 3,500 maunds of rice was brought here by boats from the east, but it has not been unshipped. The prices of grain in the Beauleah bazar are as follows:—

Dhan (paddy in husk)	26	seers.
Rice (coarse)	15	„
Gram	13½	„
Barley	26	„
Wheat	11¼	„
Khensaree dall	14¼	„
Moosree dall	13½	„
Urhur	12	„
Kullai	15	„
Peas	11	„
Moogh	6	„

At Nattore coarse rice is selling at 13½ seers, gram at 16½, and wheat at 18¾. At Sahebgunge, a big market, the fresh unhusked paddy is selling at 40 kutcha seers for the rupee, or 30 seers (80 tolla weight). This will yield about from 19 to 20 seers cleaned rice.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, zemindars do not lay in stocks of rice more than sufficient to keep themselves, their families, and servants for a year. Mr. Gallois of Kajla silk filature has lately purchased 2,000 maunds of rice for the use of workmen employed in his concern. I believe he imported this from Calcutta.

In the Bhurind, where the crops have almost entirely failed, there is a very large number of small mahajuns (I have the names of 104) who have stocks of rice (last year's), but all I can ascertain from persons living in the Bhurind is that the supply is not likely to last beyond January. At the same time I have ascertained that importations and exportations have taken place at

Godagaree and Sooltangunge, two ports on the river south of the Bhurind, to the following extent since January :—

Imports.

Period.	Imported at Godagaree.		Imported at Sooltangunge.		Total imports.
	Atob.	Oosna.	Atob.	Oosna.	
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds	Mds.
Up to 24th April ..	8,100	1,725	44,090	1,725	55,640
Since then up to date ..	9,573	2,938	57 679	42,196	1,06,386
Total ...	11,673	4,663	1,01,769	43,921	1,62,026

Exports from Sooltangunge.

Period	Imported to places up-country.		To Calcutta.		To Nuddea.		Total.
	Atob.	Oosna	Atob.	Oosna.	Atob.	Oosna.	
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds
Up to 24th April ..	44,090	3,450	810	...			48,355
Since then up to date	57,679	42,196	3,373	100	2 0		1,03 548
Total ..	1,01,769	45,646	4,183	100	200		1,51,903

There has been no rainfall in the district for several weeks past. The state of the crops was fully given in my weekly report, despatched on Saturday 29th ultimo. The condition of the people generally is yet good. In the extreme north-west of the district the residents of Bhurind have in many instances been feeding on roots, in addition to a small quantity of rice; but there has not been an actual case of starvation, and thefts have not increased. There have not been any grain thefts or robberies. This perhaps is as good a test as any of the condition of the poorer classes. In Bhurind the works in hand specified below have given employment to all who are in the neighbourhood.

B.—Relief Works.

1. Nowhatta road. An average of 104 men per day are employed on this road, chiefly on brick-making; their wages may be taken at 3 annas per day on an average. Food to be had at Beauleah, Bya, and Nowhatta.

2. Road tolls Dinagepore from Godagaree, passing through 10 miles of the Bhurind in this district. During the month of November there has been an average of 120 men per day on this work, earning at the rate of 3 annas per head. This work is altogether under departmental supervision, being in charge of a sircar, who measures the work and pays the coolies daily. The rate for earth-work is Rs. 2-8 per 1,000 cubic feet. The work is very popular and the number of workmen is increasing daily. They prefer this plan to the petty contract system, where so much of the money sticks in the hands of the contractors. The work has been chiefly near Godagaree, where the workmen buy rice; the condition of the labourers is excellent, and they work right well, some having earned as much as 5 annas a day each.

3. Nattore road. There have been 209 coolies employed daily on this road; many come from Bhurind. I cannot state what they earned, as here the work was commenced on the petty contract-system, and at first the labourers expressed themselves satisfied with the remuneration, but of late they have complained that they have not been paid regularly, and Mr. O'Flaherty, the District Engineer, has with my full approval stopped this system, and a sircar

is to be sent immediately to pay daily for work done on the system now so popular on the Dinagepore road. Food to be had at places marginally noted, where there are bazars and markets. The District Engineer is just about to mark out work on the road from Beauleah to Godagaree, on which we propose to expend more than what has been allotted by the district road committee, as it passes through a tract where work is much wanted. He is also at the same time to mark out work on an extension of the same road from Godagaree to Nowabgunge leading towards Maldah. Fifty baskets were at first supplied to the workmen at Godagaree, but generally they bring their own baskets which they make up, and always bring their own kodalls.

Benodepore.
Kapasah.
Banessur.
Shebpore.
Beraldah.

Advances of money for district works have been made in November as follows:—

		Rs.	A	P
1.	Surveying or taking cross sections of the Boral, for about 11 miles, done by canoongo	6	9	0
2.	Rya road expended	911	0	0
3.	Nattore road expended	594	3	0
4.	Dinagepore road expended	362	0	0
5.	In hands of sircar for Dinagepore road	120	0	0
6.	Advanced to Mr. Deveria for road from Beauleah to Sardah	200	0	0
7.	Advance to Mr. Ridge for petty repairs, Nowhatta Road	50	0	0
8.	To Mr. Abbott, for road from Sardah to boundary of Pubna district	500	0	0
9.	To District Engineer for various district works ...	2,000	0	0
10.	To ditto ditto for temporary bridge over a khal, where road to Nattore crosses it	25	0	0
	Total ...	4,769	6	0

In addition to the above I have advanced Rs. 100 to a canoongo, with instructions to commence work on a road from Mandah thannah westwards to the Dinagepore road, and for a road eastwards from Mandah to Bolihar. The canoongo has just reported his arrival at Mandah.

C.—Transport of Food.

The only important import to Beauleah during the week is that of 3,500 maunds by boat above alluded to. Rice comes into the district chiefly from the east—1st, direct to Beauleah and other ports on the Ganges, and 2ndly, up the Pubnah rivers into the Challan beel, and so up to Bagsar on the Attrai near Nattore; from the north boats come down the Attrai, the Joboona, and the Nagore. These are navigable by *small* boats all the year round as far as they run through this district, and for bigger boats up to 300 and even 500 maunds till October. Very little grain comes *by carts* from other districts; but from Nattore to Beauleah carts bring grain. The more important roads are being improved, and a temporary bridge has been put over a khal between this and Nattore. Additional boats have been put on the Ganges ferries. The transport trains are under the management of Mr. Robinson, whom I have supplied with information as to the number of carts, bullocks, &c., available.

D.—Storage of Government Grain.

Godagaree, Nowgaon, (on Joboona in north of district) and Mandah, have been selected as places of storage, and store-houses are being erected at the two first named places. Mohunt Gopal Dass has very kindly put at my disposal a pucka godown, capable of holding 4,000 maunds at Godagaree till Chait (April) next. At Nowgaon I have rented two godowns at the rate of 8 annas per 100 maunds per mensem for the present.

At Mandah the store-houses for 5,000 maunds will be commenced on at once. For Godagaree I have appointed, with the Commissioner's sanction, a trustworthy man on Rs. 75 per mensem, to receive and store and send on rice,

and he has been supplied with the Department Public Works' forms of stock accounts and cash accounts.

A similar arrangement is proposed for Nowgaon, the Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Koylash Chandra Rose, being now entrusted with the duty temporarily. No grain yet arrived. I am trying to pursuade local merchants to import, offering advances on conditions set forth in Government orders to respectable treaders.

E.—Advances made to Private Parties.

None made as yet.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Nothing done yet; not necessary. Arrangements in preparation will be made almost immediately and reported on hereafter.

G.—Financial Results of Week.

I regret that this statement has not been prepared through an oversight, but in addition to the expenditure shewn under heading B, I have paid to the Sub-Inspector of Godagaree Rs. 200 for materials for the store-houses at Godagaree; Rs. 200 to Baboo Gooroodass Sein (officer appointed to take charge of these store-houses), for the same purpose; and Rs. 400 for the purchase of seeds for free distribution among cultivators.

The Deputy Collector of Nattore has not yet informed me what he has spent, but I have directed him to advance to the Sub-Deputy Collector for erecting store-houses at Nowgaon, and to a canoongo who is marking out the boundaries of the road from Dadapore to Nattore to be given up for the railway, and for purchase of seed.

No advances have yet been made for purchase of food. I have directed Baboo Mohendro Nauth Bose to prepare these narratives in future while I am out in the district.

W. H. D'Oyly,
Collector.

D. E. J.

No. 89F, dated Maldah, the 2nd December 1873.

From—F. J. ALEXANDER, Esq., Offg. Collector-Magistrate of Maldah,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

No. 10Ct., dated 8th November 1873.
" 13Ct., " 17th " "
" 18Ct., " 24th " "

IN continuation of my letters as per margin, and with reference to paragraphs 27, 28, of your circular No. 80, dated 17th ultimo, and paragraph 5 D of your circular No. 87 of the 24th idem, I have the honor to furnish the fortnightly report therein called for.

NOTE.—This letter and enclosure despatched at 9 A.M. this day.

2-12-73.

F. J. ALEXANDER,
Offg. Collr.-Magte. of Maldah.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in the Maldah District for the week ending Saturday, November 29th, 1873.

Submitted in accordance with paragraphs 27, 28, of Government circular No. 80, dated 17th November, and paragraph 5D of Government circular No. 87, dated 24th November 1873.

(A).—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The supplies of grain in the local bazars vary in different localities, but are as yet generally sufficient for local wants. They cannot be said, however, to be abundant. In the north-west of the district at a few places the demand on one or two occasions lately has been more than the quantity brought for sale.

The latest prices of the undermentioned grains at *English Bazar*, the head-quarter station, are as follows:—

Rice,	best sort,	11½	seers (of 80 T. weight)	per rupee.	
"	common,	12½	"	"	"
Wheat,	...	12	"	"	"
Barley,	...	25	"	"	"

At Maldah, the next largest place to English Bazar and 4 miles off, the prices are much as above.

At Rohunpore, the largest rice mart in the east of the district (20 miles from head-quarters), the latest prices are rather more favorable, viz.—

Paddy,		22½	seers (of 80 T. weight)	per rupee.	
Rice,	best sort,	14½	"	"	"
"	common,	15½	"	"	"

At Toolsigunge, one of the largest rice marts in the north-west of the district, the latest prices are much less favorable, viz —

Rice	(quality not mentioned),	10	seers (of 80 T. weight)	per rupee.	
Wheat	... ...	10	"	"	"
Barley	... ...	13	"	"	"

The rice now selling in the market is principally what is called "Poorbi" of *last year*, which includes that grown in the eastern part of this and adjoining eastern districts as well as that imported from Dacca, &c. In the north-west part of the district the asina and amun rice, which are the earlier portions of the winter rice crop and which have been and are being reaped, are being sold in the market, *this year's crop* being *already* needed to meet local wants.

Little or no aus, *i.e.* bhadoi rice, is being sold. Most of the ryots keep this for home consumption, especially in a year like this. In the south-west of the district where this crop was this year a 12-anna one, some portion of it is being sold in the markets.

At English Bazar, Maldah, and Nawabgunge, there is certainly a considerable amount of grain in the hands of zemindars and traders; but I am unable at present to state with any precision what it amounts to.

As regards the ryots, I am able to state pretty confidently, as I have been making constant inquiries on the subject, that by far the greater number have little or no supplies of grain in store. In each village the munduls and one or two of the more substantial ryots have a few months' supply, and in villages where there has been a *good* bhadoi crop, probably *most* of the ryots have a few months' supply; but as a rule, and speaking of things *up to date*, that is *before* the winter rice crop has been harvested, I credibly believe that not more than ¼ of the cultivating population have stores varying from 2 to 6 months' supply, the remaining ¾ being dependent on the local markets.

Rainfall.—There has been no rain since my last report (dated 24th November). For several days during the week under report clouds kept gathering, but they have all disappeared, and the weather again looks clear and settled.

State of the Crops—The state of the crops has not improved. The "amun" (winter crop) of the north-western tract now being reaped is turning out worse than was expected. The damage done by *rats*, favored by the dry state of the ground, is reported to be considerable. In one small field alone an eye-witness saw 118 rats dug out, and five baskets of half-matured grain taken from their holes. I doubt a full 6-anna crop being reaped.

The hymunt (winter rice crop) of the eastern tract, the cutting of which commences immediately, will, as already reported, not yield more than a 3 to 4-anna crop.

The cold weather crops may still be fair if we have rain soon. The 'kalai,' especially, in places, is fairly good.

Condition of the People.—The health of the district continues good; but the poorer classes already feel the high prices and are glad to get work.

No *known* cases of misery and starvation or of grain-thefts or robberies have occurred. One police officer reported that he had himself afforded relief to a family in distress, as the head of the family was ill and could not work.

One or two rumours of grain-thefts have reached me, but they were not confirmed, and there is no remarkable increase in the crime of the district.

Condition of any Special Tract.—The north-west part of the district is that in which scarcity will be earliest felt, and in the eastern tract the poorer classes will need continued assistance in the shape of relief works.

(B).—Relief Works.

Besides the ordinary district roads, on eight of which work is going on, and on which the overseer reports a total daily average of 550 men at work last week, a new road in the north-west of the district (Hyatpore to Khurbah) has been laid out, and work has commenced and is progressing well (the number of workmen is not reported, the work having only recently been started.)

Two new roads have also been ordered to be laid out and commenced as relief works,—one from Gazole to Bamangola, and the other from Nowabgunge to Kassimpore.

There will be a greater demand for labor a fortnight or three weeks hence when the rice crop has been cut, as a number of people will then be thrown out of work.

The supply of food at the local markets suffices at present for the workmen employed.

The laborers complained to me in several places that the rates given by the Public Works Department Overseer were low, and the measurement of their work tardy, and the system of petty contracts at a time like this is utterly bad. I have stopped this, and ordered payments to be made direct to the workmen without the medium of a contractor, and this, with raising the rates, will, I have no doubt, make the work popular. The men are *nominally* paid by the cubic feet, at rates which vary according to the hardness of the soil, from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3-4 per 1,000 cubic feet. If they (the coolies) and not the contractor get it, this is liberal enough.

Tools are badly wanted. 250 kodals have been ordered from Calcutta and are daily expected, and 250 more have been ordered in the local market.

(C).—Transport of Food.

The imports of private food-supplies are inconsiderable and are chiefly by water. The local means of transport has not been taxed at all yet, and is ample for all present requirements, so much so that Major Lindsay, Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal Railway, whom I am supplying with carts, writes to say he does not think it will be necessary to establish a regular bullock train at present.

The Mohanuddi is reported to be shallow in several places, and in a couple of months it will not be open to boats of more than 200 to 300 maunds. It has been suggested that the shoals might be deepened by Bandals, but I hesitate to undertake the work till the Executive Engineer (who has been written to) has sent it.

(D).—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

No grain has yet been received. It has been arranged that the Commissioner is to supply me with 15,000 maunds for relief works to be delivered at Godagaree, and this I propose to store at Khurbah, Gazole, Balia-Nawabgunge, and at Godagaree itself; these localities being convenient for the works in progress. Places for storage at these localities are accordingly being arranged for.

(E).—Advances to Private parties and their Results.

No advances have yet been made. The instructions of Government, contained in circular No. 80, are being widely circulated, and the result will be reported in future narratives.

(F).—Charitable Relief.

A meeting of the principal residents at head-quarters and its neighbourhood was held by the district officer on the 30th November, and a district relief committee formed and money subscribed.

A managing relief committee was also formed, and at a meeting held by them this day it was resolved to place a sum of money *at once* at the disposal of the District Superintendent to be distributed to the head police officers at each police station for the relief of cases of any *real distress* which may occur, the circumstances of each case being fully reported to the managing committee.

Preliminaries were also arranged for carrying on relief works, and a scheme for relief centres will be proposed and adopted at an early meeting.

At a meeting of the English Bazar Municipality on 30th November, preliminaries were, also arranged for starting relief works.

(G).—Financial Results of the Week.

The Public Works Department Overseer reports a disbursement of Rs. 2,542 *up to date* in ordinary district roads, but does not specify how much of that was incurred during last week.

He further reports that his probable disbursements during the next fortnight will be Rs. 2,000.

Money has been and will be placed to credit of the Executive Engineer for such works as are required.

Rs. 500 has been advanced from the district road fund on account of relief work (Hyatpore and Khurbah road), and Rs. 50 to each of the following roads :—

Relief work { (Nowabgunge and Kassimpore).
(Bamongola and Gazole).

Total Rs. 600. This and an advance of Rs. 100 to cartmen employed under Major Lindsay, Superintending Engineer, Northern Bengal Railway, is the disbursement so far.

The special monthly crop report will follow.

Maldah, F. J. Alexander,
The 1st December 1873. *Offg. Magte. & Collector.*

W. F B

No. 1, dated Rungpore, the 1st December 1873.

Memo. from—E. G. GLAZIER, Esq., Officiating Collector, Rungpore.

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I HAVE nothing to add to the following, as Mr. Damant officiated as Collector during the greater part of November, and I returned only on the 28th ultimo.

Narrative of Scarcity and Relief in Rungpore District ending Saturday, the 29th November 1873.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

RICE is being brought into Mahegunge and Nowabgunge bazar from Dinagepore and Hilli in Bograh; the price rises and falls with the importations, but hitherto the supply has been sufficient; on one or two occasions it has been deficient, and the price has instantly risen on one occasion as high as Rs. 5 per maund.

Price for the Week.

Name of Bazars.	Best rice.	Common rice.	REMARKS
	S. Ch	S. Ch.	
Mahigunge and Nowabgunge	11 2	13 0	Per rupee.
Bhowanigunge	12 13	15 0	

No new rice has come into the market yet, the aus crop is nearly exhausted, and, as a rule, the people keep it for their own consumption. Inquiries have been made as to the amount of rice in hand, but the figures we have obtained are so manifestly wrong that at present no estimate can be made. It may, however, be taken as certain that very few of the poorer class have stores of rice, the jotedars and zemindars have mostly bought up sufficient for their own consumption, and accordingly decline to sell it. Scarcely any Rungpore rice is now being brought into the market. During a tour of ten days through the north and west of the district I only found home-grown rice selling at one place, *i.e.*, Boragarihat, at the extreme north of the district in thannah Dimla. There has been no rain during the week, and nothing but one or two small showers during the last three months.

I have lately visited thannahs Kourgunge, Durowani, and Dimla. In the two former thannahs there will probably be a four-anna crop, and in Dimla, which is much better than the rest of the district, there may be six annas. The reports from south and west are very bad; in some thannahs the yield will not exceed one anna; for the whole district the yield of the winter rice is likely to be about a fifth of an average crop. The people are cultivating wheat and potatoes very much more extensively than usual, but they complain that the wheat does not germinate freely owing to the dryness of the soil. I hear that in some parts of the district millet of two descriptions—"chinna" and "kaun"—is being extensively sown. The people are doubtless already much pressed for food in certain parts of the district. From Nayesharee the Sub-Deputy Collector reports that the price of rice has risen to Rs. 5 a maund, and in the police reports it is shown to vary from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5, and that the people are living principally on boiled maskalai and vegetables, and the people of Sadullapore thannah seem also to be paying a very high price. The thannah is very inaccessible both by road and river, and the cost of transport is therefore considerable. That the people are feeling distress is proved by the fact that they now readily come to the relief and road works which have been opened, while last year, although we paid a higher rate of wages, we could not get any coolies from

the district, and our road-making was entirely done by Hindustani coolies. In several parts the people have begun to dig up wild yams and eachu, which, though eatable, are not usually eaten. There have been only five cases of paddy theft reported during November, all of them of a petty character. In one case which I tried, the prisoner, who was evidently not a professional thief, pleaded that he and his family had been without food for three days.

B.—Relief Works.

Very little marking out will be required for relief works in this, as there are a very large number of old tracks and roads leading to various parts of the district which can advantageously be repaired. Relief works have been opened on the following roads :—

	No of Coolies	
Dinagepore road	180	Roads ordinarily repaired, but this year done by local labor as relief works.
Chilakhal „	60	
Julpigoree „	210	
Kalligunge „	100	
Bagwah „	150	
Bograh „	100	
Total ...	800	
Gyebunda to Govindgunge ...	25	Special works.
Burwani to Kourgunge	69	
Grand total ...	894	
Gopaulpore to Lalbag		Lately opened; no reports yet received.
Kurigaon to Nayesharee		

At present the supply of food seems to be sufficient for the labourers employed on the different works, but the price is very high in places. The labourers are paid at the rate of three annas per 100 cubic feet of earth excavated and thrown on the road. This mode of payment is found to be preferable to a daily wage, as the coolies do not always come regularly; they perhaps work one or two days at their own homes and the rest of the week at the relief works. The rate has been fixed as just sufficient to supply a man and his wife and two children with food. With reasonably hard work a labourer could earn three annas a day, and with the present price of rice, which may be said to vary from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 4-8 per maund, this would not do much more than supply one family with food. Up to the present time, owing to the small number of overseers and others available to superintend these works, it has not been found possible to pay the coolies on all the works oftener than once a week, but arrangements have now been made that they shall be paid daily if possible, and if not, at least twice a week. All the kodals that can be found in Rungpore have been purchased and distributed, and we are at present rather short of tools, but indents have been sent to Calcutta and we hope to get some from Dinagepore.

C.—Transport of Food.

It is impossible to give any approximate account of private food supplies which have been imported into the district in the last three months. I can only say that the western thannahs, including the sudder station, are almost entirely supplied from thannahs Habrah, Chintamun, Nowabgunge, and Ghoraghat in Dinagepore, and from Hilli in Bograh.

Durwani thannah I find is principally supplied from Bhushee and Khansama bunders in Dinagepore. Nayesharee thannah has been to some extent supplied from Assam, but the supplies are now falling short. Chilmari and Ulipoor thannahs have been receiving rice by boats both from Assam and the Dacca division; the importation has been at the rate of about 800 maunds a week; all the other rice is brought in on pack-bullocks or carts, so that it is impossible to keep anything like a correct account of them and the amount they bring.

The means of transport appears to be ample for the importation which is going on at present.

All the main roads are being put into good order, and toll bars and dry ghâts have been closed.

The principal thing we require is a steamer to bring grain up the Brahmaputra, Teesta, and Dhurla rivers. A representation on this head has already been made to the Commissioner as soon as information is received that rice is on its way up. Arrangements will be made for collecting pack-bullocks and carts.

D.—Storage of Government Grain at Relief Works.

The following places have been selected as places of storage :—

Chillakhal	on the Teesta.
Paneal Ghât	on the Teesta.
Kallegunge	on the Brahmaputra.
Kungaon	on the Dhurlah.
Gyebunda	on the Ghagat.
Durwani.	
Peergunge.	

The District Engineer has received orders to set about constructing golahs at once, beginning with the golahs on the rivers first. An estimate will be immediately forwarded. It will probably be necessary to select other places of storage, but the sites already chosen are intended to be main depôts to which we can attach small branches as occasion requires.

No other steps have been yet taken under this head.

E.—Advances to Private Parties and their Results.

The Magistrate has written to five zemindars within whose estates distress is prevailing, and offered them advances of Rs. 2,000 each, but no reply has yet been received. No other advances of any description have been made.

F.—Charitable Relief.

Nothing has been done under this head at present.

G.—Financial Results of the Week.

	Rs.	A.	P.	
Lalbag to Gopalpore ...	200	0	0	Special works.
Durwani to Kourgunge ...	100	0	0	Special works.
Kurongai to Nayesharee ...	200	0	0	Special works.
Dinagepore	158	4	6	Paid through Executive Engineer.
Bagwah	75	0	0	Paid through Executive Engineer.
Total ...	733	4	6	

G. N. Damant,
Joint-Magistrate in charge, F. D.

The 1st December 1873.

S. J. D'S.

Extract from a letter from E. W. MOLONY, Esq., Commissioner of Rajshahye, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Special Department, No. 87SP, dated Berhampore, the 8th December 1873.

IN compliance with the orders contained in paragraph 6 of Circular No. 87, I have the honor to continue the series of Narratives the first of which I despatched on the 27th of November last, prior to the receipt of the Circular quoted above.

A.—STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. The monthly reports due in the first week in December, will be reaching Government at the same time as this from each district, and a very brief notice under this head will be expected from me.

3. The parts at which the greatest scarcity of rice exposed for sale are apparent, are Rungpore and part of Maldah. Mr. Damont states that home-grown rice was only found in one market in a tour of 10 days in the North and North-West of the district. The extreme North-Eastern Thannah of Nagessuri is said to be badly* off as well as the whole of the South of the district. The general outturn for Rungpore is also estimated to be very small; I think there are very serious apprehensions for this district. The extent to which the West and South-West are supplied from the Dinagepore district, must I think be an exaggeration and it is certain that that source of supply cannot last long. Probably here as elsewhere the new crop will somewhat improve matters for a while. It is gratifying to learn that an increased breadth of potatoes and wheat are being sown in Rungpore.

* Many people eating boiled Mas Kalai and roots.

4. Khurbah in Maldah. The belt of country in Dinagepore described by Mr. Robinson, and the West of that district; the Burrind in Maldah and Rajshahye; and the parts of Rungpore above spoken of are the parts where there is the most cause at present for apprehension.

5. There are more assuring reports from Bograh which is satisfactory, but on the whole I regret to say that the prospects generally of the Division cannot be more favorably reported than at the beginning of November. In fact the apprehension of the food supply of the country proving insufficient is rather strengthened than the reverse by information gained during the month. But little really reliable information has been collected about stocks, nor do I think any can ever be had. It is generally believed that headmen and substantial ryots have a certain quantity in reserve, and those who have tolerably large supplies will be obliged to impart to those who naturally look to them or are in any way dependent on them both from interested motives and from fear of plunder if they refuse. My own opinion is that whatever these stocks may be, they will not prove sufficient to tide over the scarcity as regards a large proportion of the population.

6. There have been a few isolated cases of distress reported, but in general destitution has yet shewn itself. The demand for work is increasing however, which shows that the high prices are beginning to tell. There is no great increase in crime as yet nor have grain thefts or robberies been yet reported to me.

B.—RELIEF WORKS.

7. A good deal of correspondence has passed during the fortnight regarding relief works which have been more particularly detailed in the district Narrative up to the 1st of December which are before Government. The Government

orders in the Public Works Department regarding the details of system on which works are to be carried out, were received in this office yesterday.

MOORSHEDABAD

1 Nowada to Jaroor
2 Panchgaon to Nowada
} These are sections of the old Badshahi road, running north and south through the west of the district.
3 Moorshedabad to Rampore Hât through Sherepore and Dolegram.
4 Moorarai and Jungipore road.

DINAGEPORE

1 Gungarampore to Kundoba
2 Ditto to Lashkerhaut
3 Ditto to Tumbooly
4. Ditto to Foolbari.
5 Bangunge to Choorammon
6 Ditto to Kalmugunge.
7 Ditto to Hemtabad.
8. Dinagepore to Purnesh, *viâ* Dingraghat.
9. Dinagepore to Kishengunge, *viâ* Ramsankail and Nekmard.

MALDAH

1. Hyatpore on the Ganges to Khurbah.
Gajole to Ramongolah
2 Nawabgunge to Godagari as far as Kasampore

RAJSHAHYE

1 Godagari to Rampore Beauleah
2 Ditto to Nawabgunge as far as Rampore.
3 Maudah to the Dinagepore road.
4 Ditto to Bahbar

RUNGPORE

1. Gyebundar to Govindagunge.
2. Dwarwance to Kishoregunge.
3 Gopalpore to Lallbag
4. Kouragaon to Nagessuri

BOGRAH

1. Bograh to Shariakandy
2. Sooltanpore to Adumdigghee *viâ* Elahigunge.

PUBNAH.

No special works have yet been decided on The Serajgunge (southern section) and Bograh road will be taken in hand at once as a district road

8. Considerable progress has been made in preparing works to give employment as relief works. The projects will be separately reported on according to late orders. The marginally noted works are either now in readiness or under preparation, and some of them are under execution in addition to those that would have been ordinarily undertaken by the District Road Fund, for many of these special grants will eventually be required. There are others in contemplation not noted in this list.

9. A very considerable number of laborers is employed on these roads and the ordinary roads of the district, the particulars of which are given in the district reports, so far as known. Regular returns will be received when late orders come into force. At present, I gather from reports to date that not less than 4,500 men are at work in Dinagepore, Rungpore and Rajshahye, of which number more than half are in Dinagepore. The other districts have given no figures.

10. The feeder roads most urgently required have been decided on by Mr. Robinson and Major Lindsay and are noted on the margin. It is expected that an Engineer will be at work on No. 1 in about a week. It is hoped that one or two others in the worst tracts will very shortly be arranged for through Major Lindsay's staff.

FEEDERS.

From west of line.

1. Neetpore to Sultanpore
2 Poosha to Dundoma
3. Patwan to Hillee
4. Sunghia to Basudebpore
5 Khunsama to Durwance
6. Kalmugunge *viâ* Boda and Debidoba to Dimjab

East of the line.

7. Bograh to Sultanpore.
8. Goraghat to Hillee
9 Kalmugunge *viâ* Sadoolapore and Peergunge to Basudebpore.
10 Kishoregunge to Durwance

11. The questions of rates, tools, mode of payment, &c., are still under consideration. The late Government orders in the Public Works Department will I hope lead to the adoption of a uniform system.

12. I am unable to report in full on establishments just now. An Executive Engineer has been appointed to Bograh and outside assistance has been engaged in Moorshedabad and Dinagepore. The Magistrate of Rungpore has been authorized to put on five men as temporary Sub-Overseers. The Executive Engineer will appoint these men.

C.

12½. I am unable to give any estimate of supplies brought into the Division from outside during the fortnight. That rice is coming into most of the districts is undoubted. I have received accounts of the Naraingunge market in which it was stated that prices had been run up by boats coming for rice from various places of which Nattore was mentioned as one. There has been great excitement in the Serajgunge market which went up to Rs. 4, but has now I hear come down to Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2-12 again. This led to a strike amongst the laborers in the Gunja, chiefly the binders of jute, who were very much inclined to become unmanageable but who dispersed after an interview with the Assistant Magistrate to whom they came in a body. But very

scanty particulars of this affair are given by Mr. Nolan. He talks of taking security from the ringleaders, and I have requested that an example may be made if any rioting was committed. There must always be a drain more or less from this Division at Serajgunge which probably compensates for the supply one hears of trickling in from the Eastern districts.

13. There is a general idea that transport appliances are sufficient and will probably remain so until June, after which cross country traffic must be almost entirely closed for large consignments.

14. The Government is aware of Rai Luchmeepat Bahadoor's expressed intentions to supply food to the ryots. One of his properties in Putni is in the most distressed part of Rungpore. Baboo Khetro Mohun Singh, the Manager of the Rajbaree estate in Dinagepore, and Baboo Radhagovind Roy, have also expressed a wish to introduce some Rs. 20,000 worth of rice each for their indigent ryots, and I hope they will manage to do so. They will receive any assistance in arranging for the transport of the grain that they may require and that is feasible.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

No. 39, dated Dinagepore, the 7th December 1873.

From—W. LEE. ROBINSON, Esq., On Special Duty,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

IN conformity with the orders contained in Circular Nos. 70 and 81, I have the honor to make the following report on the state of the district of Dinagepore.

Since writing the report for November, I have been myself over a very large extent of country, and I regret to say that I have seen nothing to make me suppose that the state of the crops will be any better than I then expected, that is to say, that it will not be more than a 4-anna crop for the whole district. The worst part of the district is, as I have already reported, from Raigunge and Hemtabad, on the Purneah border, in a south-easterly direction to Patiram and Pohritola police stations and Bogra border.

In the eastern part, about Hebra and Chintamon, the crop is reported as not likely to turn out so well as was once expected. It was supposed that there will be a full 6-anna crop there at one time, but this has now come down to 4-annas. It is in this part of the country that considerable supplies of old rice were left, owing to exportation being impracticable from want of water in the river Jaboona, and though a great deal has been taken away to other parts of this district, and also to Rungpore and other places, I believe there is a considerable store still at Foolbaree, Berhampore, and Hillee, in the Bogra district. I heard last week that there were still 80,000 maunds at Hillee and 50,000 or 60,000 at Foolbaree and Berhampore; but I have been unable to go there yet to ascertain personally the correctness of the statement.

I was out at Tamboolee, 30 miles from here, on the Maldah road, last week. I find there is about a 4-anna crop for the first 20 miles, but towards Tamboolee you get into the bad portion again, and there is scarcely any crop at all. I had a great assembly of munduls and other villagers, and a long talk over affairs in general. The general impression among them was that the munduls and other large cultivators had rice enough in hand to last if they did not export any till the next bhadoi crop comes in; but that in a couple of months the poorer classes would be in distress, unless labor is provided for them. What stores of rice remain in the district are in the hands of the better-to-do ryots, who are often traders as well, but in the hands of the traders in grain, pure and simple, there is no stock; they are generally agents for firms at Calcutta or elsewhere, have exported all they had, and can get no more large supplies until a good harvest comes.

The people are now cutting the new crops in many places, and the withered plants as well, to store as fodder for the cattle. As soon as this is over—and it will be in about a month—I expect a very great increase to the number of men who will require works to be given to them to enable them to purchase food. From the north-west direction, thannahs Peergunge and Raneesonkool, I have heard during the past week that work will very soon be required, and I proceed to that part of the country myself on Monday, and shall at once organise road work in connection with the Purneah emigration lines to the northward if I see the necessity for it. Work has already been begun on the main line from Dinagepore to the Purneah Dingra Ghaut road.

In the north of the district I hear that the crops are pretty fair, fully up to the 4 annas, but that there is very little old dhan in store; I hope, however, to be able to ascertain with greater certainty during the next fortnight.

A remark made to me by one of the munduls when talking to him privately last week may be worthy of notice. I said to him, you well-to-do people have enough to last you till next year; of course to this he readily assented. I added, but the poor?—will you be able and willing to help them too? "Yes," he said, "we shall all do that; we must do it, otherwise our nearest neighbours would be our greatest enemies, and no one would be safe." I do not think there is anything to add to or alter in my November's report on the subject. I take the same view now of affairs as I did then, and I still hope that if we find labor at fair wages for poorer classes the district may fall through without actual famine; but at the same time I am firmly convinced of the necessity of having rice in store in the vicinity in case the local supply shall fail.

No. 4021.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

IN THE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Calcutta, *dated* 18*th December* / *issued December* 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 3908, dated the 12th December 1873, I am directed to forward herewith five copies of the Sixth Special Narrative (with appendices and enclosures enumerated below) of the drought in Behar and parts of Bengal from the 13th to 18th December 1873 inclusive.

2. Copies have not been despatched direct to His Grace the Secretary of State for India, because the Lieutenant-Governor understands that the Government of India will now forward copies with any remarks which may be necessary.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDICES.

A.—Note on the Movement of Food-grains.

B.—Bengal Government letter No. 4020, dated the 18th December 1873, to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, Rajshahye, and other officers, communicating His Excellency the Viceroy's orders on his visit to Behar, and Bengal Government letter No. 4033, dated 18th December 1873, acknowledging the receipt of His Excellency the Viceroy's orders.

C.—Bengal Government Resolution of the 16th December, assigning to each division the sources of its grain supply up till the 31st January 1874.

D.—Statement showing the amount of Government rice despatched from Calcutta into the interior.

E.—Review of the further reports for December on the prospects of the crops, in reply to Government Circular No. 70, dated 13th October.

F.—Comparison of the crops of 1873 with the crops of 1865 as reported by the district officers.

ENCLOSURES.

1.—Return of Rain, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops for week ending 13th December.

2.—Return of Prices-current for week ending 13th December.

3.—Patna Division Famine Diary from 15th November to 8th December 1873.

Sixth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873, from 13th to 18th December.

The last Narrative contained intelligence of a fall of rain. This rain fell generally over the lower delta and littoral districts, which did not require it. It extended also to Burdwan, on the west, and Kishnaghur, on the north. It does not appear to have done much harm to the ripening rice; it has not been heavy enough for that: and it has done some good to the spring crops. Unfortunately there has been no rain in the distressed districts where it is urgently required. Since the rain fell, the weather in Calcutta has been more seasonable, brighter and colder, with northerly winds and dewy nights. The genuine cold weather seems now to have commenced, though even now it is not so cold as it usually is at this time of year.

2. With the exception of the improvement in the spring crops in certain tracts where rain has fallen, as noted above, there is no change to chronicle this week in the prospect of the crops. The improvement on the estimated outturn of the winter crops said to be shown in certain districts is not contradicted; in much of the Bhagulpore and some parts of the Purneah districts the late rice crop now being harvested is turning out on the whole better than had been anticipated.

In Behar the spring crops still hold out against the drought surprisingly well; if rain falls they will still give a fair outturn. The crop reports for the week ending 13th December are enclosed.*

* Enclosure 1.

3. There has been a slight fall in prices in some districts, but not such a fall as was anticipated on the new rice coming into the market. What was said last week of this month's prices as compared with those ruling in December 1865, holds good this week too. The prices-current return for the week ending 13th December is enclosed.† The usual note on the movement of food-grains is appended.‡

† Enclosure 1
‡ Appendix A.

4. While the last Narrative was under despatch, His Excellency the Viceroy was on a visit to the Soane Canal works, where he met the local officers. He was pleased to express his approval of what had been done, and of what was doing, in the distressed districts, and at the Soane works. His Excellency's orders§ have been communicated to the local officers under cover of a letter No. 4033, dated to-day, copy of which is submitted. Copy of His Excellency the Viceroy's orders, and of the reply of this Government, are also appended to make the Narrative complete.

§ Appendix B.

It was noted in the last Narrative that the Lieutenant-Governor had submitted to the Government of India proposals for the employment of extra civil establishments on preparations for meeting possible famine. The Lieutenant-Governor's proposals have been sanctioned, and the extra establishments have been distributed. It has been left to Commissioners to decide what extra ministerial and police establishments will be necessary within certain limits; but the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that every economy should be exercised, and that no extra establishments should be entertained until they are absolutely necessary.

The arrangements for promoting emigration from the distressed tracts are progressing; it is said that from the Sarun district, at any rate, very many families of the farm-laborer and such like classes are ready to emigrate. If the arrangement is finally made they will be started in batches of 70 to 100 persons, and will be provided with food from the Government stores on their route. It is possible that before very long some batches of emigrants will have started for the Assam tea gardens *viâ* Durbhangah, Nathpore, Titalya, Julpigoree, and Dhoobree. At Dhoobree a depôt will be formed for receiving

the emigrants, whence they will be carried on steamers and flats to Upper and Central Assam. The presence of cholera at Goalundo and on the banks of the Megna makes it specially desirable to avoid the Calcutta and Goalundo route. For Burmah emigrants may be collected either in Behar or in Western Bengal, or in both, if the necessary arrangements should be made.

5. Paragraph 6 of the last Narrative stated the amount of grain which was, under the orders of the Government of India, to be provided in the country before the 31st January. It has now been made almost certain that the whole of the required amount will be secured; the North-West Provinces' officer (Mr. A. Colvin) has engaged to send the full amount we have ordered through him, and it is understood that the supply to be obtained from across the sea by the Government of India is almost secure. An assignment of the supplies coming from the different sources has accordingly been made to the several distressed divisions, care being taken to distribute the supplies so as to involve no avoidable railway or other carriage. Copy of the orders making that distribution will be found in Appendix C. It will be seen that a reserve of 375,000 maunds has been kept in hand to meet possible requirements in Western or Central Bengal, or to supplement the allotments to remote or specially indigent tracts.

6. Government grain from Madras and Burmah has continued to come in, and is still arriving. Further shipments from Saigon, Burmah, and Madras, have been advised. The rice bought in Orissa is coming in slowly; the first sloop-load of rice was rather inferior in quality, but the subsequent arrivals have been fair enough and up to the sample. Some 40,000 maunds of mixed grains, bought from the North-Western Provinces on Government account, have arrived in Behar, and the supplies from this source are coming in steadily. It has not been found convenient to make any large purchases in Eastern Bengal; and the Lieutenant-Governor has felt the less regret at this result, because the surplus of these districts is mostly finding its way to Calcutta. When the present harvest shall have been gathered, the Lieutenant-Governor would hope to collect in Eastern Bengal any further supplies needed for the Rajshahye division, and to send them by the Megna and Berhampooter to their destination.

7. The precise price at which Government grain is being laid down in the distressed tracts cannot yet be stated; but the North-Western Provinces grain delivered in Behar will probably stand us in about Rs. 3 a maund all round, including bags; the Burmah rice will cost somewhat more than this at Calcutta; and the Orissa rice will cost somewhat less than Rs. 3 per maund. The rice bought in the Calcutta market has proved to be the dearest grain which has yet been bought. Yesterday (Wednesday, the 17th December,) was the last day for the receipt of tenders for the supply of 150,000 maunds of rice in Calcutta; tenders for as much as 267,000 maunds have been received, and the Lieutenant-Governor has accepted tenders for the full amount required at rates ranging from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-15-6 per maund, inclusive of bags.

8. The table in Appendix D shows that 61,700 maunds of rice have been despatched from Calcutta to the interior. The Government of India has been pleased to permit the Lieutenant-Governor to send Burmah or Madras rice to local relief works, on the ground that the supply from across the sea will very much more than suffice for the imperial works. The despatch of grain from stations on the East Indian Railway to the interior is going on with satisfactory rapidity; the Patna district Narrative, to-day received, shows that up to the 14th December the Magistrate-Collector had received at the Patna and Barh stations—

	Mds.
Burmah rice	21,975
Bengal rice	41,521
Mixed grains from the North-Western Provinces	35,070
Total ..	98,566

and that he had despatched to store-houses in the Chumparun, Tirhoot, and

Sarun districts 65,027 maunds, besides sending 2,000 maunds to a distressed tract in the interior of his own district. From Bhaugulpore detailed information up to the present date is not available; but the Magistrates of Bhaugulpore and Caragola have notified that they can carry across the Ganges to the north of their districts all the grain that has yet come, and as much more as is sent, up to 20,000 maunds a week. The despatches to the Rajshahye Division are not going on so rapidly from Goalundo and Kooshtea; but Mr. Toynbee goes up there at the end of the week to see if matters can be expedited. Meanwhile we are loading at Calcutta a steamer and two flats with Bengal rice for Kaligunge and Chilmaree on the mouth of the Teesta.

9. The fortnightly narratives from distressed districts for the fortnight ending November 29th were submitted with the last Narrative. Those for the fortnight ending December 13th will be submitted with the next Narrative. The Commissioners' fortnightly narratives submitted in alternate weeks with the district narratives were also alluded to in the last Narrative. That from the Commissioner of Patna for the fortnight ending December 8th is submitted herewith, as it contains somewhat later information.* The only point of which notice need be taken here is that the Commissioner is of opinion that the Government importations are checking private trade. An intelligent native gentleman of the Patna Division approvingly writes: "The arrangements made by Government for storing grain for supply when needed have gone far to assure the people there will be no want." The Commissioner is doing his best to inform the people of the intention of Government to expend its stores of grain in payment for work, and he has been authorized, if he thinks necessary, to make a further attempt to buy through the local trade in order to promote importation.

* Enclosure 3.

10. A review of the further reports for December, under Circular No. 70 of the 13th October, is added hereto.* It shows, perhaps, on the whole, that things are a little more promising than the review of the reports for November (see Appendix B to the Narrative of November 21st) made them out to be. But no material alteration can be made either in that review, or in the very brief synopsis of it contained in paragraph 4 of the Narrative of November 21st. In the review of the January reports a definite statement will be possible as to whether the outturn has exceeded the estimate or not.

* Appendix E

11. A review of the opinions given by district officers of the extent of the loss of crops in 1873, as compared with the loss in 1865, is also appended.* It must be remembered that this review does not take into account the fact that the harvests which preceded 1865 were worse than those which have preceded 1873.

* Appendix F.

It may be noted that as yet this year actual distress has not shown itself anywhere, nor is there any very brisk demand for labour; while in 1865 in some parts distress had shown itself in October.

12. From the Soane Canal works we learn that the area irrigated in the Shahabad district now amounts to 121,751 acres. In the Gya district 2,959 acres have been irrigated from the Patna Canal in sixty-eight villages. The total area irrigated up to date on this branch is estimated at 3,732 acres; it is believed that ultimately it will be found that a far greater area has been irrigated. A plentiful supply of water has been sent down the Poonpoon river, so much so indeed, that some of the dams constructed for irrigation across the river have burst and a large tract of country has been flooded. Measures have been taken to control the water. The Collector of Patna says some 5,000 acres have been irrigated from the Poonpoon.

The daily average of labour employed during the week on the canal works was 20,000. This is an increase on last week's average, and is said not to be due to scarcity. The work in the Buxar division has now fairly been begun, an average of 1,226 labourers having been employed during the week. No difficulty is experienced in the supply of food, and the labourers show no appearance of distress. Most of the labourers are doing task-work under contractors.

From the Gunduck it is reported that little has been done during the week beyond the commencement of repairs to existing embankments and the alignment of the new embankments. The officers have only just arrived at their stations.

An accident has unfortunately delayed the opening of the Kana Nuddee. The rain of the 11th December caused a fresh in the Damoodah river, which destroyed part of the dam, thereby rendering it impossible to admit water into the excavation till the dam has been repaired.

13. With reference to paragraph 9 of the last Narrative, it has been pointed out by the Government of India that the Lieutenant-Governor is competent to sanction such a work as the commencement of brick-making on the Northern Bengal Railway. He has accordingly directed Major Lindsay to proceed with the brick-making, but has, at the same time, warned him against going to any great expense in leading by land coal or other materials which might be more cheaply carried by boat during the rainy season.

14. It was mentioned in the last Narrative that the India General Steam Navigation Company had proposed to run their steamer the *Pioneer* with flats to Balasore to bring up rice. Unfortunately the marine authorities have been unable to grant the steamer a certificate.

The British India Steam Navigation Company have replied to the representation made to them regarding their action in raising their rates of freight from Orissa to Calcutta. They say that they formerly carried cargo at abnormally low rates in order to attract traffic. Now that regular rates are freely offered, they think themselves justified in taking them. At the same time, they made the offer to carry Government rice at rates 30 per cent. below the rates named in their postal contract with Government. They have now been asked to put on a special steamer at low rates to carry rice from the Orissa ports to Calcutta.

15 At the instance of the Commissioner Rs. 1,00,000 have been allotted to the Presidency Division for expenditure on advances for land improvements. The extension to this division of the relaxations of the rules under Act XXVI of 1871, detailed in paragraph 6 of the Narrative of the 28th November, is under consideration.

16. The additional Executive and Assistant Engineers applied for by the Bengal Government on the 16th November have most of them arrived; but several of them having been transferred to the Irrigation Department, the General Department is still short of men. A further application has accordingly been made to the Government of India.

Tools suitable for relief works in the Calcutta and Madras markets have been bought up, as well as all that could be procured in the North-Western Provinces, and arrangements have been made for a weekly supply from Madras, North-Western Provinces, and other localities. Bombay is also supplying its quota.

It is at present estimated that 1,40,000 hoes and 60,000 pick-axes, in addition to the tools in the possession of the agricultural classes of the distressed districts, will be required for relief operations, and arrangements have been made to procure this number by the middle of March next. Returns, however, of probable requirements of tools have been called for from the Commissioners concerned.

17. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, this Narrative is despatched on Thursday instead of on Friday, and will be so despatched in future.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,

Addl. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 18th December 1873.

Appendix A *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 13*th December to* 18*th December* 1873.

APPENDIX A.

Note on the Movement of Food-grains.

1. Between the 10th and 16th December over 17,000 maunds of wheat and gram passed Sahebgunge on the Ganges downwards. During the same period some 9 000 maunds rice and over 12,000 maunds pulses passed upwards This rice was chiefly from Maldah and Rajshahye, and was chiefly consigned to Benares. The pulses are from Moorshedabad, Maldah, and Rajshahye, and are consigned to various places in the Benares, Patna, and Bhaugulpore Divisions.

2. The week ending 13th December shows the downward traffic in wheat and gram past Kooshtea on the Gorai to be as brisk as ever, over 30,000 maunds having gone down since last report. The traffic in rice up the Ganges past Goalundo does not develope, only 18,000 maunds having gone up since last report.

The traffic in food-grains on the Eastern Bengal Railway continues almost nil.

3. During the six days ending December 16th, some 73,000 maunds of food-grains came into Calcutta by the eastern canals This makes a total of some 5,00,000 maunds since the 1st October. Wheat from the Behar districts is now coming in by this route.

4. Between the 11th and 16th December, both inclusive, some 80,000 maunds rice have left Howrah for stations up-country, chiefly consigned to Bhaugulpore and Patna. This includes Government despatches, for which see Appendix D.

5. During the six days ending 16th December, the exports of food-grains from Calcutta beyond the sea have been as follows :—

	Mds.
Rice	161,108
Wheat	28,225
Oats	3,128
Dâl	6,016
Grain	2,087
Paddy	5
Total ..	200,569

The exports of rice from Calcutta to beyond sea now amount to a total of 618,000 maunds since November 1st.

6. During the same six days the imports of rice have been—

	Mds.
From Madras	3,187
„ Rangoon	511
„ Chittagong	8,972
„ Orissa Ports	2,800
„ Other Ports	118
Total ..	15,588

7. Since last report some 35,000 maunds of rice have been exported from Chittagong to ports other than Bengal ports.

8 Some more reports have been received from the Punjab. During the week ending 6th December, some 59,000 maunds of food-grains was exported from Delhi to Benares and places below. From Umballa the despatches during the week ending 7th December were 15,000 maunds, and during the same period from Ludianah 78,000 maunds. The Punjab Government have been asked to give more details of the distribution of these large despatches. At present it is only known that they are destined for Agra and places below.

9. During the week ending November 29th, no less than 170,000 maunds of food-grains were received by the East Indian Railway at Mirzapore and stations below from places above Of this total 1,00,000 maunds was received at places in the Patna and Bhaugulpore divisions.

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,

The 18th December 1873. *Addl. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

D. E. J.

Appendix **B** *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 13*th December to* 18*th December* 1873.

No. 4020.

FROM THE OFFG. SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE COMMRS. OF PATNA, BHAUGULPORE AND RAJSHAHYE, AND TO THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SOANE CANAL.

Calcutta, the 18th December, 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, conveying the impressions derived by His Excellency the Viceroy during his recent visit to Behar. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to have the pleasure of communicating to you this expression of His Excellency's approval in which Sir George Campbell heartily concurs. It will be observed that the Viceroy notices with approbation the arrangements made by all the local officers and also the assistance given by the planters of Behar.

2. With reference to paragraph 4, I am to say that the subject of the further extension of the Soane Canal works is under consideration and a further communication will shortly be made to the Irrigation Department and the Commissioner of Patna.

3. With reference to paragraph 5, I am to forward copy of Sir George Campbell's note, comparing the position of affairs in November, 1865, with that of the present year.

4. With reference to paragraph 13 of His Excellency's orders, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to urge upon Commissioners and Magistrate-Collectors to do all they can to make the zemindars see that it is both their duty and interest to assist their ryots with advances during the coming crisis; and he directs that advances of public money may be made without interest to zemindars who desire to help their ryots, on the same terms as advances are made to zemindars who will import grain. Particular engagements regarding the expenditure of such advances must be taken, and great care must be exercised to see that they are expended in the manner intended. The Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to be favoured with an early expression of opinion from the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore and Rajshahye, on the question whether it would be possible as suggested by His Excellency the Viceroy that advances should be made direct to cultivators, and legislative provision be made requiring the landlords to be security for the repayment of the advances.

5. I am to request that local officers will make known as widely as possible the position in regard to Government importations of grain as defined in paragraph 16 of His Excellency the Viceroy's orders. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that it will be made plain that the grain now imported by

Government is for use on the relief works and at poor-houses only, so that traders may recover from any fear of Government competition, and that private importations of grain may increase.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor will assure the Government of India that the local officers may be trusted to comply with the Viceroy's instructions, and carefully to watch all indications of the approach of scarcity and distress in any district or locality, even in those places where there has not hitherto been serious apprehension, but where, owing to sudden rise of prices or other reason, difficulty may unexpectedly arise.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 4020½.

COPY, with copy of His Excellency the Viceroy's orders, to other Commissioners of Divisions with special reference to paragraphs 3, 4, and 5.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 18*th December* 1873.

A. St. L. B.

No. 604, dated Fort William, the 16th December 1873.

From—A. O. HUME, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Scarcity and Relief Department.

I AM directed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General to acquaint you, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, with the impressions which His Excellency has derived from his recent visit to Behar.

2. After leaving Allahabad, Lord Northbrook went by rail to Mogulserai, and from thence to Sasseram and Dehreé, where the head-works of the Soane Canal are situated. He then proceeded to the Behea Station, and returned to Calcutta by the Loop Line. In the course of this journey His Excellency has had the opportunity of passing through a part of Behar, in which the worst scarcity is anticipated, and of conversing with Mr. Bayley, the Commissioner of Patna, Messrs. Alexander and Palmer, the Collectors of Shahabad and Gya, Mr. Eyre, the Deputy Magistrate of Sasseram, Mr. Levinge, the Superintending Engineer of the Soane Circle, Messrs. Thomson and Fox of Behea, Messrs Molony and Barlow, the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Bhaugulpore, Mr. Taylor, the Collector of Bhaugulpore, and others.

3. Lord Northbrook is glad of this opportunity of expressing his entire approval of the general arrangements ordered by Sir George Campbell in his excellent circular of the 17th of November and subsequently, as well as of the manner in which they have been carried out. His Excellency feels entire confidence in the ability of the local officers to execute the orders of Government and to cope successfully with any difficulties which may arise. The energy, the thorough mastery of the details of the subject, and the anxiety not to omit any possible precaution to provide against famine, displayed by all the officers with whom Lord Northbrook came in contact, deserve His Excellency's highest commendation.

4. Lord Northbrook would be much obliged to the Lieutenant-Governor to convey the thanks of the Government to Mr. Levinge, who, when he heard early in October that the rice crop was in danger from drought, immediately made temporary arrangements for opening some branches of the Soane Canal which were incomplete, and has thus already supplied with water 120,000 acres of land, upon some of which the rice crop has been saved, whilst upon all there is a prospect of fine winter and rubbee crops. His Excellency has directed that the Lieutenant-Governor shall be furnished with a copy of Colonel Rundall's observations upon the progress of the works, and he requests that His Honor will authorise the commencement of the western main canal as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made by Mr. Levinge.

5. The general prospects of the country embraced within the three Commissionerships, which include the whole area of distress as defined in the Lieutenant-Governor's circular of the 17th of November, appear to His Excellency to be unchanged, with the exception that in Behar there is more land sown for "rubbee" than was at first supposed, and that the actual condition of the "rubbee" sowings is reported to be generally satisfactory. In these particulars the situation is certainly somewhat better than was anticipated a month ago. Lord Northbrook found that several high authorities had arrived at the same conclusion as the Government of India and Sir George Campbell (in His Honor's note of the 25th of November) that the present condition of affairs is, on the whole, much the same as it was at the same time in the year 1865.

6. When at Fyzabad Lord Northbrook saw Lieutenant-Colonel Hankin, Commanding the 4th Bengal Cavalry, which regiment had just arrived from Segowlee, having marched through the north of the district of Champarun, a part of the country as to which Mr. Bayley feels some apprehension; His Excellency was glad to hear that there were then no signs of distress. Colonel Hankin, who with great forethought took every opportunity of ascertaining the condition of the country through which he passed, has furnished Lord Northbrook with his observations, a copy of which will be sent for Sir George Campbell's information

7. The Commissioner of Patna explained to His Excellency in detail the arrangements which he has made both as to local relief works and as to the storing of grain in convenient places These will all in due course be reported by the Commissioner himself to His Honor. It will be sufficient for His Excellency to say that Mr. Bayley appears to have carried out the orders and intentions of Government with great judgment and ability. The number of centres in which grain is already stored or will be stored is large, and it may confidently be expected that when Mr. Bayley's arrangements are complete,—as they will be before any serious distress can arise,—every portion of his division will be within easy reach of some Government food depôt, from which officers in charge of Public Works, or Relief Committees, if it should be found necessary to establish them, will be able to draw supplies. Lord Northbrook himself saw considerable quantities of rice stored at Dehree, which is 60 miles distant from the nearest railway station.

Time did not permit of the Commissioners of Rajshahye and Bhaugulpore explaining to His Excellency the whole of the details connected with their relief works and storage of food, but from short conversations His Excellency gathered that they had made arrangements very similar in character to those of Mr. Bayley, and equally satisfactory.

8. Arrangements for local transport were reported to be in progress. The Commissioner of Patna and his subordinate officers have already provided largely for the transport of food, and were not under any anxiety that the means at their disposal would prove inadequate to meet their requirements.

9 No relief works, properly so called, have yet been found necessary in the Patna Division, although throughout the scarcity-stricken districts every preparation has been made to start them whenever and wherever they may be required. The number of persons employed on the Soane Canal works has recently somewhat diminished, owing to the employment of labourers in gathering the harvest; all those who were employed at the time of His Excellency's visit were ordinary contract labourers.

10. The preparations for the organisation of Relief Committees have been generally postponed until the more urgent work connected with the storage and transport of grain has been completed

The local officers in the Shahabad district expressed some doubt as to whether it would be possible to organise Relief Committees properly without increased European agency. Perhaps this requirement may have been met by the schedule of temporary establishments which has been already sanctioned by the Government of India; but should this not be the case, any representation which His Honor may think fit to make as to the temporary employment of more officers, with a view to the supervision of Relief Committees, will receive His Excellency's immediate attention.

11. His Excellency was glad to learn that the zemindars in the Shahabad district are applying for advances, and Mr. Bayley speaks in the highest terms of the assistance which the planters are rendering to him in the neighbourhood of their homes.

12. Almost all the local officers expressed considerable anxiety as to the sufficiency of the supplies of fodder, and some expressed apprehension as to the supply of water for cattle. His Excellency understands that this subject is receiving the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor with a view to every possible precaution being taken to obviate so serious a calamity as great mortality amongst the cattle.

13. The Commissioner of Bhaugulpore brought to Lord Northbrook's notice the probability that certain classes of cultivators might be unable to obtain sufficient credit to carry them through the time of scarcity, but would not resort to public works, or apply for relief in any other form, and suggested that advances of money or grain might be made to them, to be recovered afterwards with interest.

It is the obvious and natural duty of the landlords under whom such cultivators hold to do their utmost to assist them in passing through this temporary difficulty. The issue of advances of public money to any zemindars for this purpose should be held to come within the authority already given by the Government of India in respect to advances, and where apprehension is felt that this class will experience distress which cannot be otherwise met, it will be the duty of local officers to point out to zemindars the action which they should take, and the manner in which Government is prepared to assist them. The instructions contained in the circular letter addressed by His Honor's directions to the Commissioners of Patna and Bhaugulpore of the 24th November with respect to advances for the digging of wells appear to His Excellency to be very judicious, and might perhaps be extended with advantage to other purposes. Lord Northbrook does not doubt that, on such communications being made to them, zemindars will either make advances to such cultivators from their own funds, or accept with alacrity the assistance offered by Government for this purpose; but if those expectations should not be realised, and difficulty is found with regard to the security for advances made directly to cultivators, His Excellency is ready to consider whether some legislative provision should not be made to the effect that their landlord shall stand security for the re-payment.

14. His Excellency endeavoured, whilst in the North-Western Provinces, to obtain the most trustworthy information both as to the prospects of the winter crops in those provinces and as to the surplus stores which are available for export. As regards the winter crops, there is every appearance of an unusually abundant yield in most parts of the North-Western Provinces. It is difficult, if not impossible, to state in figures the amount of surplus stores available, but the autumn crop has been a large one, and there was a remarkable concurrence of opinion amongst all whom His Excellency consulted, including Sir W. Muir, the district officers, and the best informed grain-dealers, that in any case a large quantity of grain will be available to meet the deficiency of the crops in Behar.

15. All the information which His Excellency received tended to show that private trade is active, and that large quantities of grain have been and are being sent to the distressed districts from the North-West and the Punjab. It is of great importance that no check should be put upon the operations of private traders by the importations of grain on Government account, and the Commissioner of Patna and other local officers in Behar pressed upon His Excellency the desirability of doing nothing to shake the confidence of grain-dealers in their ability to find a market for imported food-grains.

16. The position which Government occupies in respect to food-grains which have been or will be imported into the distressed districts cannot be too widely made known. The stores of grain laid in by Government will not be brought into competition with the general supplies of the trade, but will be used for the maintenance of the work-people employed upon

Government relief works, and as depôts upon which Relief Committees, should it become necessary to call such Committees into existence, may draw.

Bearing in mind the large number of persons in need of relief for whom food may be required, the fact that many tracts of country which are threatened with scarcity are remote from railway stations, the difficulty which may be experienced in throwing grain in adequate quantities at a short notice into those tracts of country, and the determination of the Government to take ample precautionary measures in order to obviate mortality from starvation. His Excellency decided and announced in the Government Resolution of November 7th, that it would not be sufficient to rely upon the ordinary action of trade to meet these contingencies. Steps have accordingly been taken to secure sufficient food for the full number of persons who, judging by the experience of the past and the estimates of the Lieutenant-Governor and of the responsible local officers as to the future, may be compelled to resort to relief works or require gratuitous relief.

It will be seen that Government relies to a great extent on private trade to supplement any deficiency in the food supply of one part of the country from the surplus of another part; but at the same time, as an insurance against the inability of the operations of trade to meet the expected demands in certain places, stores have been purchased, in order to secure a reserve of food for that portion of the people who may be thrown on the hands of the Government or of the Relief Committees Some part of these stores are already available in the districts threatened with famine, and the remainder will be available by the time they are required.

17. All the officers who were consulted by His Excellency were of opinion that the orders issued and precautions taken by Government were adequate.

18 The future prospects of the country greatly depend upon the timely supply of the rain which usually falls about Christmas; and, although the prompt action that has been taken must greatly mitigate the severity of the calamity which threatens the affected districts, there is still every reason to press forward to completion the measures which have been decided upon, and to watch carefully the signs which indicate the approach of actual distress throughout the whole Province, in order that any additional measures may be adopted which altered circumstances may require. Lord Northbrook is satisfied that the Lieutenant-Governor and the local officers are fully alive to these circumstances.

No. 4033.

FROM THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL

IN THE STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Calcutta, dated 18th December / issued December 1873.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 604, dated 16th December, and to express the Lieutenant-Governor's gratification that His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to accord approval to the arrangements made by this Government and the Commissioners and officers of Behar at the present crisis. I am to submit copy of the letter under which the orders of His Excellency have been communicated to the local officers. With reference to the concluding sentence of paragraph 4, I am to say that regarding the Western Soane Canal works the Lieutenant-Governor will address the Government of India separately.

2. In regard to the remark that the prospects of the country at the present time do not differ greatly from the position at the same period of 1865, it must be understood to be the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion that the failure of the present year is much more widespread than in 1865, but the latter year having been preceded by bad seasons while the crops of 1871-72 were good, it is possible that the country may be now in no greater danger than it was then; but there can be no question that the crops of 1873 have, at any rate in the distressed tracts, been worse than those of 1865.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Appendix C *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 13*th December to* 18*th December* 1873.

RESOLUTION.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT.

SCARCITY AND RELIEF.

Calcutta, the 16th December 1873.

IN the orders of the 6th December last it was stated that by the end of January the Government hoped to have in the country 1,875,000 maunds of Government grain. It was at the same time intimated that this grain was to be allotted to the distressed tracts in the following proportions:—

	Mds.
Patna division local works and Gunduck Embankment ...	8,00,000
Soane canal works	1,00,000
Bhaugulpore division local works	3,00,000
Rajshahye division local works	2,00,000
Northern Bengal Railway	1,00,000
Reserve	3,75,000

The figures both for the total provision and for the allotments included all grain that had been ordered or despatched up to the 6th December.

2. Up to the present date the Government grain ordered and to be delivered before the 15th January to the several Commissioners is as follows:—

Patna Commissioner's Orders.

	Mds.
North-West Provinces grain	1,25,000
Bengal grain and rice	31,000
Through local dealers in the Tirhoot, Gya, Sarun, and Chumparun districts 75,000 maunds have been ordered; but it is not certain how much of this will arrive before the 15th January, and therefore the Lieutenant-Governor reckons only upon from this source.	44,000
Total	2,00,000

Bhaugulpore Commissioner's Orders.

As per his letter of the 10th December—

Indian-corn	30,000
Gram	20,000
Jowaree	10,000
Total	60,000

Rajshahye Commissioner's Orders.

From Backergunge	30,000
Through Mr. Davis of Goalundo	10,000
Total	40,000

The Bengal Government has ordered besides what is to be sent from Calcutta,

From the Nerbudda Valley through Bunsee Lall Rai Bahadoor—

Wheat		40,000
From the North-West Provinces, through Mr. Auckland Colvin—		
Wheat	50,000	
Barley	50,000	
Jowaree	50,000	
		1,50,000
Total ..		1,90,000

3. It is now necessary to decide from what sources each division and imperial work shall get its allotted supply. In the first place, each Commissioner will have what he has himself ordered. Next, the grain ordered from Northern and Central India will be allotted to the Patna division. The balance then left will have to be supplied by Mr. Toynbee, the Government grain officer, from the grain which may come to Calcutta.

Thus the Patna division will have—

	Mds.
The amount of the Commissioner's own orders from Bengal and the North-Western Provinces	2,00,000
The amount ordered by Government from the North-Western Provinces through Mr. Colvin	1,50,000
Balance to be provided from Calcutta by Mr. Toynbee ..	4,50,000
Total ..	8,00,000

The Soane Canal works will have—

The wheat coming from the Nerbudda Valley	40,000
Balance to be provided by Mr. Toynbee	60,000
Total ..	1,00,000

The Bhaugulpore Division will have—

The amount of the Commissioner's own orders	60,000
Balance to be provided by Mr. Toynbee from Calcutta ..	2,40,000
	3,00,000

The Rajshahye Division will have—

The amount of the Commissioner's own orders	40 000
Balance to be provided by Mr. Toynbee from Calcutta ...	1,60,000
	2,00,000

The Northern Bengal Railway works will have to be provided entirely by Mr. Toynbee from Calcutta with their allotment of	1,00,000

4. Each Commissioner will arrange himself for having the grain he has ordered forwarded to such stations as he may think proper; he will notify to Mr. Toynbee where and in what quantities he would wish to have the balance sent; and he will arrange with his Magistrates for forwarding it on as quickly as possible. The Commissioners will not, without the sanction of Government, depart from the district allotments made under the orders of the 6th December, though they can, if they see fit, recommend alterations in that distribution. It will be remembered that the earlier despatches should be sent, as far as possible, for storage in the more remote tracts for which a long lead by carts or pack-bullocks may be necessary, and the Lieutenant-Governor cannot too often urge the extreme advantage of effecting this transport as early as possible. The Commissioner of Patna will notify to Mr. A. Colvin to what stations the 1,50,000 maunds of North-Western Provinces' grain should be consigned; and Mr. Levinge should notify to Mr. Toynbee to what stations the Nerbudda Valley wheat must be sent for his works. Mr. Robinson and Major Lindsay will do likewise in respect of the grain for Rajshahye works and for the Northern Bengal Railway.

The Lieutenant-Governor has already said much about the very great need for pressing forward the despatch of grain from the railway and river-side stations into the interior. The railway officers have reported that Government grain is blocking up some of the principal stations; the December rains, if happily they should come, must be near; and he hopes that if through mischance grain is left at railway stations, arrangements will be made with temporary thatch or matting or tarpaulins or in some other way to prevent it from getting spoilt by rain. For river-side despatching stations like Patna Ghât, Barh, Goalundo, and Kooshtea, warehouses or temporary sheds are being provided.

5. The amounts to be provided by Mr. Toynbee from Calcutta are thus—

	Mds.
Patna Division	4,50,000
Soane Canal Works	60,000
Bhaugulpore Division	2,40,000
Rajshahye Division	1,60,000
Northern Bengal Railway works	1,00,000
	9,50,000

Of this amount there has been already (up to Saturday, the 13th December) sent off in round numbers—

	Mds.
To the Patna Division, inclusive of the Gunduck Embankment ..	40,000
To the Soane Canal inclusive of the amounts sent direct by Mr. R. Scott Moncrieff	41,000
To the Bhaugulpore Division	62,000
To the Rajshahye Division	27,000
To the Northern Bengal Railway	37,000
Total ...	2,04,000

Mr. Toynbee is continuing to despatch grain, as it arrives and as he can get wagons, to—

Patna Ghât	For the Patna Division and Gunduck Embankment
Barh	
Buxar	For the Soane Canal.
Mogulserai	
Bhaugulpore...	For the Bhaugulpore Division.
Caragola	
Luckeserai	
Kooshtea	For the Rajshahye Division and the Northern Bengal Railway.
Goalundo	

He will continue to send to these places, until he receives from each Commissioner and from the Superintending Engineers of the Soane Canal and the Northern Bengal Railway, intimation as required under paragraph 4 of these orders. He also hopes to arrange for hiring from the India General Steam Navigation Company a steamer and two flats to carry rice to Kaligunge at the mouth of the Teesta. He will also try to arrange for sending some grain by the Eastern Bengal Railway and on their large steamers and flats to Kaligunge. Possibly as the Railway Company's freight is mostly jute down-stream from Serajgunge, the Agent may be willing to take rice from Goalundo at reasonable rates to Kaligunge, provided a full load for a steamer and two flats is forthcoming. The Commissioner of Rajshahye will have to arrange for forwarding the grain from Kaligunge into the interior of Rungpore, as an ordinary river steamer with flats cannot ply on the Teesta at this time of year.

6. In order that the Government arrangements for providing the whole amount of grain may be clearly set out in the present orders, the Lieutenant-Governor observes that—

		Mds.
(1)	the three Commissioners have between them arrranged for ...	3,00,000
(2)	the Bengal Government has already arranged for from Orissa ...	2,00,000
(3)	ditto ditto ditto bought in Calcutta, about ..	1,60,000
(4)	ditto ditto has arranged for from the Nerbudda Valley	40,000
(5)	ditto ditto has ordered through Mr. Auckland Colvin from the North-West Provinces	1,50,000
(6)	ditto ditto will get in Calcutta as per invitation for tenders	1,50,000
(7)	the Government of India have ordered, and have already partly obtained, from Burmah and Madras	2,70,000
(8)	ditto ditto have been pleased to promise to obtain from beyond the sea if possible by the end of January ...	6,55,000
	Total ...	19,25,000

If the whole amount thus ordered should be provided before the end of January, then the provision would be very little in excess of the amount sanctioned by the Government of India. But there is some uncertainty about compliance with, and the punctual arrival of, some of the orders, such as the Central Provinces wheat and the grain ordered through local dealers in the Behar Districts; and the Lieutenant-Governor deems it best to be on the safe side.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 3965.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioners of Patna, Bhaugulpore, Rajshahye, Superintending Engineers, Soane Canal and Northern Bengal Railway, and Mr. G. Toynbee, for information, with special reference to paragraphs 4 and 5.

Mr. Auckland Colvin of Allahabad, with reference to paragraph 4, and the communication he is to expect from the Commissioner of Patna.

The Commissioners of Dacca and Chittagong, with an intimation that for the present the Government of Bengal will not trouble them to buy any more rice for Government.

No. 3966.

Copy forwarded to the Accountant General.

No 3967.

Copy forwarded to Mr. Franklin Prestage, Eastern Bengal Railway, in case he may see his way to undertaking the business indicated at paragraph 5.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. BERNARD,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Calcutta,

The 16th December 1873.

D. E. J.

Appendix **D** *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 13*th December to* 18*th December* 1873.

Appendix D to Bengal Drought Narrative for the six days ending the 18th December.

RETURN OF GOVERNMENT RICE DESPATCHED FROM CALCUTTA UP TO 17TH DECEMBER 1873.

Division in which the rice is to be used	Station to which sent.	Quantity sent up to date in Indian maunds.					Of which was sent,		Remarks
		Burmah Rice.	Bengal Rice.	Orissa Rice.	Madras Rice.	Total.	Up to date of last statement dated 11th December 1873.	During the week under report	
		Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
Patna	Patna Ghât	28,433	10,708	.....	.....	39,141	33,434	5,707	
	Barrh	...	.....	9,890	.....	9,890	3,073	6,817	
	Arrah	9,502	6,617	.....	.....	16,119	10,025	6,094	For bonne works
	Mogulserai	6,566	6,619		..	13,175	9,912	3,263	
Totals, Patna Division ...		44,491	23,944	9,890		78,325	56,444	21,881	
Bhaugulpore ..	Bhaugulpore	.	34,000	3,856	3,993	41,849	34,000	7,849	
	Carragola	.....	20,336	.....	...	20,336	7,212	13,124	
	Lukhiserai	.....	5,129	...	...	5,129	5,129		
	Monghyr	... .	2,691	.....	.....	2,691	2,691		
	Sahebgunge	....	3,924	... ..	... ..	3,924	3,924		
Totals, Bhaugulpore Division ...		.	66,080	3,856	3,993	73,029	52,056	20,973	
Rajshahye ...	Rajmehal	5,297	..	.	..	5,297	5,297	.	For Northern Bengal Railway.
	Kushtea	4,148	30,938	.....	...	35,086	30,767	4,319	
	Goalundo	37,370	... .	... .	.. ..	37,370	22,796	14,574	For Northern Bengal Railway
Totals, Rajshahye Division .		46,815	30,938	...	.	77,753	58,860	18,893	
Grand totals .		91,306	1,20,962	13,746	3,993	2,30,007	1,68,260	61,747	

G. TOYNBEE, C.S.,
On Special Duty.

The 17th December 1873.

W. E. B.

Appendix E *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 13*th December to* 18*th December* 1873.

Appendix E to the Sixth Special Narrative of the Drought in Bengal during 1873-74.

REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT REPORTS FOR DECEMBER, UNDER CIRCULAR NO. 70, DATED 13TH OCTOBER 1873, UPON THE PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS IN EACH OF THE SEVEN TRACTS, AS DEFINED IN APPENDIX B TO THE SPECIAL NARRATIVE OF 21st NOVEMBER 1873.

(1.) *The Lower Delta and the Littoral Districts.*—The remarks made in the review of the November reports still hold good. The present reports are perhaps rather better than the former ones, but the crops of 1873 will not be more than average ones all round. The spring crops, which however in these districts form but a very small proportion of the food of the people, will also probably be very fair.

Midnapore (part of), Jessore, (part of) Backergunge, Noakhally, Chittagong, Cuttack, Balasore, Pooree.

These districts being exporting districts do not generally hold large stocks, but in Backergunge the ryots usually keep enough to last them till the next early rains crop comes in, while in Orissa they are said to retain a whole year's consumption since the famine there. Since these reports came to hand there has been a fall of rain over most of this tract, amounting in some places to more than an inch. So far as at present ascertained the damage done to the ripe rice has been trifling and not irreparable, while the cold weather crops such as they are have been benefited.

(2.) *Western Bengal below the Uplands.*—The present set of reports are rather more hopeful than those for November. The crops of 1873 will yield fully one-half of their average produce. Howrah especially appears to be a good deal better off than was expected. Parts of these districts are importing tracts, and will have to supply their deficiency from outside. Their spring crop, on which however they do not much depend, would have been a failure, but rain has fallen since these reports were submitted. This rain has not been beneficial to the rice which is now being harvested, but the damage done is not so great as to affect the general outturn as given above.

Burdwan, Hooghly with Howrah, and part of Midnapore.

Very little information is given regarding stocks in hand, but the general outcome of the opinions given is that, including the rice of the early rains crop which was a tolerably good one, the people have enough food to last them three months independent of the late harvest now coming on. They are now consuming rice of the early rains crop, but rice of the late rains crop of 1872 is still to be found.

Water is said to be becoming scarce. The late rain may improve matters a little in this respect, but as it was not more than half inch to an inch, it can hardly have given a supply to the reservoirs. It sufficed, however, to bring down a fresh of the Damoodah, which interfered with the operations for letting the water of that river into the Kana Nuddee, and has, it is feared, delayed the result for several days.

(3.) *The Central Delta Districts.*—The former estimate, one-half to three-quarters of an average crop all round, needs no amendment. The spring crop will probably be bad, but the slight rain of last week may have improved the prospect a little in the limited portions of this part to which it extended. The bulk of the people are eating the rice of this year's early rains crop, though rice of last year's winter crop is still to be had. The stocks are said to be very small; perhaps, including what remains of the early rice, equal to a two months' supply.

24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Moorshedabad, Furreedpore, Pubna, part of Jessore.

Complaints of want of water are rife.

(4.) *Northern Bengal.*—Further inquiry does not lead to the conclusion that the food-crops of 1873 will yield more than from one-quarter to one-third of the outturn of an ordinary year. In the small district of Bograh things are turning out better than was estimated; in Rajshahye they remain as they were; in the other districts they are almost worse. There has been no rain in this tract.

Rajshahye, Maldah, Dinagepore, Bograh, and Rungpore.

The stocks held are said to be small except in some limited tracts. The people are unaccustomed to scarcity, and they do not hoard their grain. In Rungpore the people have not known a year of short crops since the beginning of the century. In Maldah one-fourth of the people may have, including the early rice of this year, enough to last them two or three months.

(5.) *Eastern Bengal.*—The reports from these districts are on the whole more favorable than those for last month. The food-crops of 1873 will, it is hoped, yield from two-thirds to a full average outturn. The people are still eating the rice of 1872, though the early rains rice of this year is more commonly in use. Large stocks are held in Sylhet where there is a full crop.

Dacca, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Tipperah, Cachar.

The prospect of the cold weather crop is poor.

Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, part of Midnapore, Maunbhoom, Hazareebaugh, Lohardugga, Singbhoom, Sonthal Pergunnahs, part of Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr.

(6.) *The upland country of Bengal and Chota Nagpore.*—The former estimate may stand. Upland Bengal and Sonthal Pergunnahs are somewhat better than was at one time reported. The cold weather crops are said to be in a very precarious state. The late rain only touched the edge of this tract. The area affected by it is not sufficient to change the general average of the crops.

The people are eating this year's early rains crops, and are reported to have considerable stocks in hand.

Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr, Purneah.

(7*a*.) *Northern Behar.*—The December reports show no general improvement in these districts. On a review of the November reports it was stated that the food-crops of 1873 cannot give more than one-third the outturn of an ordinary year. It is now necessary to say that the total outturn of the late rains crops of 1873 will probably fall short of one-third of that of an ordinary year. Only in parts of Bhaugulpore and Purneah may the estimate of one-third of an ordinary outturn be exceeded.

The prospects of the spring crop, which in Sarun and some other districts is a very important crop, depend mainly upon whether rain comes or does not come within the next month. If sufficient rain falls, we shall probably have in Behar a spring harvest equal to a full half or two-thirds of the yield of ordinary years; in many parts a full crop.

Stocks, including what remains of the early rains crops, may be equal to two or three months' consumption. People are now consuming the early rains crops.

Patna, Gya, Shahabad, parts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr.

(7*b*.) *South Behar.*—Here there may be a slight improvement on the former estimate. Both Shahabad and Gya reports are more hopeful. The food-crops of 1873 may give a yield equal to one-third of an average yield.

Little more than one-half the usual area has, it is said, been sown with spring crops, and so far they are doing well. It will probably turn out that the area sown is much more than half the usual breadth

Stocks are very small, and people are consuming imported Bengal rice as well as the produce of the early rains crops.

Darjeeling, Julpigoree, Cooch Behar, Gowalparah, Kamroop, Durrung, Nowgong, Seebsaugor, Luckimpore, Naga Hills, Khasi Hills, Garo Hills.

(8.) *Assam and the Hill Districts.*—The review of the November reports has to be so far qualified that the parts of Julpigoree and Cooch Behar bordering upon Northern Bengal will have short crops. Otherwise the statement that on the whole the food-grain crops are fairly good is borne out by the present reports.

(9.) The food-grain crops of 1873 spoken of in this review include all crops grown in the rainy season, which are sown at the commencement of the rains and reaped during or after the rains. They do not include either the spring crop of 1873 or the spring crop of 1874.

(10.) The outcome of the whole review is that the country has lost more or less one-half of its main annual food-supply. If the half remaining could be equally distributed, and the spring crops turn out well, then probably, with the help of increased cultivation of vegetables, the stocks in hand, and economy, and a fair spring crop, famine at any rate might be avoided. But unfortunately the existing food-supply cannot be distributed with full regard to the necessities of every part.

(11.) Except where noted, there has been no such change in the prospect since these reports for December were written as would materially affect the general estimate of outturn for each tract.

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,

Addl. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

The 18th December 1873.

Appendix **F** *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 13*th December to* 18*th December* 1873.

Appendix F to the Sixth Special Narrative of the Drought of 1873.

REVIEW OF THE REPORTS OF DISTRICT OFFICERS COMPARING THE OUTTURN OF THE CROPS OF 1873 WITH THAT OF THE CROPS OF 1865.

Midnapore (part of), Jessore (part of), Backergunge, Noakhally, Chittagong, Cuttack, Balasore, Pooree.

1. *The Lower Delta and the Littoral Districts.*—In Orissa this year full average crops will be obtained; in 1865 only one-fourth to one-half of an average was reaped. The other districts in this tract will give fairly good crops, as they did in 1865,—except Midnapore, where there was much failure in that year.

Burdwan, Hooghly with Howrah, a part of Midnapore.

2. *Western Bengal below the uplands.*—Hooghly proper is estimated to be worse than it was in 1865, but its sub-district of Howrah to be better, while Burdwan is estimated to be about as well off. On the whole, considering that Hooghly is larger than Howrah, we may conclude that this tract will not give a larger outturn from the food-crops of 1873 than it did from those of 1865.

24-Pergunnahs, Nuddea, Moorshedabad, Furreedpore, Pubna, part of Jessore.

3. *The Central Delta Districts.*—On the whole, in this tract 1873 may give nearly as good an outturn as 1865. Pubna and Moorshedabad are stated to be worse off this year than they were then. Furreedpore is said to be better off, while Nuddea and 24-Pergunnahs will together produce about the same outturn as in that year. Looking, however, beyond 1865 to the spring crops of 1866, we find that whereas in 1866 they were generally good, the prospect now for 1874 is as yet bad.

Rajshahye, Maldah, Dinagepore, Bograh, Rungpore.

4. *Northern Bengal.*—The reports from these districts agree that the crops of 1873 will produce about half the outturn of 1865.

Dacca, Mymensing, Sylhet, Tipperah.

5. *Eastern Bengal.*—1865 yielded not very far short of average crops; 1873 is estimated to yield from two-thirds to a full average outturn. On the whole the yield will be somewhat less than in 1865.

Bancoorah, Beerbhoom, part of Midnapore, Maunbhoom Hazareebaugh, Lohardugga, Singbhoom, Southal Pergunnahs, part of Bhaugulpore, Monghyr

6. *Upland countries of Bengal and Chota Nagpore.*—Some of these districts are expected to give a better outturn than in 1865. On the whole this tract is better off than it was in that year. Hazareebaugh and Singbhoom are much better off, Lohardugga and Maunbhoom somewhat better off. The sub-division of Palamow, adjoining Behar, is worse in the present year

Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, parts of Bhaugulpore, Monghyr, Purneah.

7*a*. *Northern Behar.*—The crops of 1873 over the whole of this tract are much worse than they were in 1865. In Sarun and Chumparun the yield is estimated to be only one-half that of 1865. In Tirhoot, North Bhaugulpore, and Purneah, the yield is very much less than in that year.

Patna, Gya, Shahabad, parts of Bhaugulpore, and Monghyr.

7*b*. *Southern Behar.*—Southern Behar does not compare so badly with 1865 as Northern Behar. In Patna it was said that things are no worse than they were in that year, but the last report is not very favorable. In Shahabad the crops are stated to be much worse, in Gya and southern Monghyr and southern Bhaugulpore only worse.

Darjeeling, Julpigoree, Cooch Behar, Goalparah, Kamroop, Durrang, Nowgong, Seebsangor, Lucklimpore, Naga Hills, Khasi Hills, Garo Hills

8. *Assam and the Hill Districts.*—The crops in these districts have been fair this year, as they were in 1865 also.

9. The food crops of 1873, spoken of in this review, include all crops grown in the rainy season, which are sown at the commencement of the rains and reaped during or after the rains. They do not include either the spring crop of 1873 or the spring crop of 1874.

10. It is to be noted that this review is confined to a comparison of the crops of 1873 with those of 1865. That year having been preceded by bad seasons, while the crops of 1871, 1872, were good, it is possible that the country may be now in no greater danger than it was then; but there can be no question that the crops of 1873 have, at any rate in the distressed tracts, been worse than those of 1865.

H. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON,

Addl. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 18*th December* 1873.

Enclosures 1 *to* 3 *to Special Narrative of the Drought of* 1873 *in Bengal, from* 13*th to* 18*th December* 1873.

Rainfall, Weather and State and Prospects of the Crops.

Statement showing Rainfall, Weather, State and Prospects of the Crops in the different Districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 13th December 1873.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL			
	Western Districts		
BURDWAN DIVISION. 1	Burdwan, 16th Dec 1873	1 38	Slight rain in all thannahs of sudder sub-division and of Jehanabad. Rain has done harm to amun crop, good to sugarcane, and winter crop, except mustard. Price of rice little cheaper. Export continues. Fever decreasing.
2	Bancoorah, 13th „ „	0 07 on the 11th	Cloudy in the middle of the week. The rest of the week dry. The hymunti paddy is being reaped There has been no change in the prospects of the sugarcane and other rubbee crops. The rainfall at the sudder station on the night of the 10th has slightly injured the ripe paddy in the fields, and has done no good to the rubbee crops.
3	Beerbhoom, 13th „ „	Nil	Unseasonably warm and frequently cloudy. Harvest of late rice still in progress. Cold weather sowings small. Sugarcane declining from continued drought. 6,140 maunds exported by rail to Bhaugulpore and Patna Divisions. Prices slightly fallen.
4	Midnapore, 13th „ „	·04	From the 9th to the 12th cloudy and close, like August weather; one shower fell on the morning of the 11th. At Garbetta ·5 inches of rain fell. It has generally benefited the sugarcane and the cold weather crops; gardens and grazing grounds are also benefited. Apparently it has done no harm to the rice which is being harvested, whether standing or cut. Water in drinking and bathing reservoirs decreasing very rapidly.
5	Hooghly, 13th „ „	76	Clear and cloudy; rain on the morning of the 11th. The rain is of no use except for the potato crop. Prospect of other crops generally as before,—a six-anna crop of late rice and a four-anna crop of pulses, &c.
	Howrah, 13th „ „	72	Heavy rains on the 11th all over the district. Weather seems again to be settled and fine. The crops remain unchanged. The harvest has begun in many places. No variation to make in last report. There is no noticeable change in the prices anywhere; it is believed that the harvest, which has just begun, will bring prices down greatly.
	Central Districts.		
PRESIDENCY DIVISION. 6	24 Pergunnahs, 15th Dec. 1873	0·44	Cloudy in the morning during the early part of the week. A good fall of rain on the 11th, the weather has since cleared up, but continues warm for the time of the year. No change in the prospects of the late rice crop, the reaping of which is going on rapidly. The rain on the 11th in the Sudder, Barrackpore, Dum-Dum, and Baraset Sub-divisions, has benefited the cold weather crops without, as far as known, injuring to any appreciable extent the rice crop on the ground. In Busseerhat the people are anxious to sow all suitable land with boro dhan. Fever continues unabated in Busseerhat. In Barriepore it is spreading eastwards In Satkhira and Baraset it is abating.
7	Nuddea, 13th „ „	0·36	Cloudy until the 11th, when rain fell. Dry and clear since that date. The late crop in the Kushtea Sub-division is expected to yield a six-anna outturn, in Meherpore an eight-anna crop of the principal cold weather food-grains may be expected; prospects have not otherwise altered. The rain of the 11th has probably done more harm than good. A few cases of cholera have been reported from Chooadangah.
8	Jessore, 13th „ „	·08	Generally clear, with one or two cloudy days. Slight drizzling rain in some places on one or two days. Prospects of cold weather crops much as before. The outturn of the rice crop may be expected on the whole to be an eight-anna one. There has been a general fall in the price of coarse rice since last week.
RAJSHAHYE DIVISION. 9	Moorshedabad, 13th Dec 1873.	Nil	The weather same as last reported. Heavy clouds at intervals, but no rain. A very slight drizzle at Ramporehat on the 11th. The cutting of the late rice crop continues, and the produce is already being brought into the market. The cold weather crops have not improved, and rain is much needed for them. The only successful crop is kalai, which will be quite up to the average in most parts. Oil-seed (teel) and arhar are also pretty fair and may yield average crops. Boats with unhusked rice (dhan) from the eastern district have arrived at the mouth of the Khariya-nadi in Jalangi, and their cargoes are being bought up by the inhabitants of that neighbourhood at the rate of 27½ seers the rupee. Prices are stationary in the bazars. Small-pox has broken out in thannahs Sooty and Kalliangunge and at Kandhee.
10	Dinagepore, 13th „ „	Nil	Cloudy towards evening for the last two or three days; days clear and bright. Rice is slightly cheaper. A pretty fair rice crop is expected from Thakurgaon, the northern thanpah of the district, where some rain fell in October Wheat, barley, and other cold weather crops are suffering for want of rain.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sadder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)			
	Central Districts.—(Contd.)		
RAJSHAHYE DIVN.—(*Contd.*) 11	Maldah, 13th Dec. 1873	Nil	Clouds collect and disperse; weather dry and cool; wind northerly. The ryots are busily engaged in reaping and harvesting the winter rice crop. The yield of the winter rice crop varies in places, but all round will not be more than a four-anna crop. The cold weather crops require rain. Pulse (kalai) ripening. Prices stationary. Supply of grain at local markets sufficient for local requirements. Between 2,000 or 3,000 labourers are at work on ordinary district roads and those newly projected, but much of the local labour will be occupied for some days in harvesting the rice crop. A district relief committee has been formed. Subscriptions raised, and small sums placed at the disposal of each police officer at out stations for relief of any casual cases of actual want or distress. No sign of anything like distress or want at present. Arrangements in progress for importing and storing grains for relief works.
12	Rajshahye 13th „ „	Nil	No change in the weather, neither any apparent prospect of rain, the continued want of which is telling considerably on the growing crops (excepting arhar and mashkalai), as well as impairing the chance of successfully completing the sowings, still unfinished. The latest sowings are not germinating freely in consequence of the very dry state of the soil. The cultivation of cold weather crops generally is less than usual owing to the unfavorable state of the ground for receiving seed. In some places sugarcane is being cut early for fear of the yield of juice being shortened by the continued drought. Rahar and mashkalai are the best crops in the district and are as yet unaffected by want of rain. Boro dhan cultivation is being pushed on with much energy, especially in the west and north-west (the Bhurind tract), where the preparations for this crop are more extensive than in ordinary years. Young plants are being removed from the nurseries to the banks of tanks and khals, whence they will be finally transplanted to the fields. Mulberry and indigo are thriving, and there is promise of good outturn of silk cocoons. The only change in prices is a slight fall in the north-western and north-eastern portion of the district. Cases of cholera are decreasing in frequency, but they have not altogether ceased.
13	Rungpore, 13th „ „	Nil	Cloudless, with foggy mornings. Cutting of crops going on. Prospects the same as before. Spring crops being sown, but rain is wanted. Rice slightly dearer; Rs 3 8 to Rs. 5.
14	Bogra, 13th „ „	Nil	Weather dry still, not a drop of rain as yet. Fever is prevailing more or less in almost all the police stations of the district. Reaping of the late amun paddy has commenced throughout the district; a poor outturn is to be expected. In parts where irrigation was carried on, the yield is much less than in previous years. Cold weather crops in low lands are somewhat favorable, but those on high lands are greatly in need of rain. Mulberry is doing pretty well still. Sugarcane promises well. Price of ordinary rice at the Bogra bazar on the 13th is 12 seers and 12 chittacks per rupee.
15	Pubna, 13th „ „	Nil	Weather cold, with chilly winds from the north-west. No rain at all. The amun dhan now being cut; of the winter crops the moog and mashkalai are being reaped, which in some parts are fair. The prospects of sugarcane and turmeric good. The prospect of the rest of the winter crops is daily growing worse for want of rain, which is urgently required for their growth.
COOCH BEHAR DIVN. 16	Darjeeling, 13th „ „	Nil	Cloudy, misty weather during half the week, but not a drop of rain. Common rice a little cheaper than during last week. Bhoota has also fallen in price.
17	Julpigoree, 13th „ „	Nil	Bright, clear weather, no signs of rain. The mornings are not as cold as they should be at this time of the year. The sun is unusually powerful, and the middays and evenings are more like early March weather than December. Dews have been rather heavier for the last few days. Hymunti dhan is being cut all over the district, and as far as can be ascertained is some twelve or thirteen annas in the Dooars all round, ten and twelve annas north of Julpigoree, ten annas towards Titalyah, and twelve annas round and immediately south of Julpigoree. Boda six or seven annas all round. Cold weather crops promising well. Sugarcane very good. Old stock of dhan mostly exported from the district, and exportation going on briskly. Prices are falling. New dhan coming into the market. In some of the hâts in the Dooars this week, aus dhan is selling at 14 annas per maund, hymunti at Re. 1. Hymunti rice, coarse, Rs 1-12; hymunti rice, best, Rs. 2-4; and aus rice Rs. 1-8. The rates, though cheap for the present season, are just double what the rates were at this time last year. At the Fallacota hât old hymunti rice is selling at 20 seers per rupee, new at 26 seers.
	Cooch Behar, 13th „ „	Nil	The mornings are foggy. No change in the prospects of the crops. A shower of rain will now do much good to the cold weather crops.
	Eastern Districts.		
DACCA DIVISION. 18	Dacca, 16th „ „	Nil	Weather still warm. Prospects of crops as before. Oil-seeds will be a short crop. Fever abating.
19	Furreedpore, 13th „ „	Nil	No change in the condition of the rubbee crops. There has not been rain for 11 weeks. Barometer is steadily rising and marks nearly 30 inches, which indicates settled fine weather. The temperature is more that of February. Clouds on the 11th. In most villages there are probably one or two richer ryots or jotedars who keep some little extra grain for exchange purposes, usually to loan out to poorer ryots, returnable in kind after the harvest. There are 2,307 villages, and supposing 50 maunds is estimated all round for each village, this would give 1,15,350 maunds; none of this would be available for export. In a year like the current one this would be doled out to such villages as have none in hand. As this rice is loaned out just before the harvest is due, it is therefore questionable whether any of this remains in stock.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BENGAL.—(*Contd.*)			
	Eastern Districts.—(Contd.)		
DACCA DIVN.—(*Contd.*)			
20	Backergunge, "	.....	Return not received.
21	Mymensing, 13th Dec. 1873	Nil	Cloudy at the beginning of the week; afterwards bright, clear weather, with occasional morning fogs. Little change in the state of the crops since last report. The price of food has risen somewhat throughout the district. No present sign of rain. Pulses are being harvested in some places. The new amun rice is beginning to come into the market. Fever still prevalent in parts of the Attia sub-division. An outbreak of cholera is reported in the town of Kissengunge.
22	Sylhet, 6th " "	Nil	Close all through the week, and very cloudy up to Wednesday. The late rice is being cut, half nearly cut, the outturn will be a good twelve-anna crop.
23	Cachar, 6th " "	0·12	Cloudy and too warm. Slight rain followed the earth-quake of last Saturday. The river has risen about two feet since the morning of the 6th December. The crops are doing well, insects having altogether disappeared; outturn may exceed anticipations. Late rice is being cut all over the district.
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
24	Chittagong, 6th " "	·95	Up to Thursday night dull, with drizzling rain. Since then the weather has cleared up and is fine and bright. The rain has put a stop to harvest operations. Insects have again appeared in the Chuckeria and Satkanea thannahs.
25	Noakhally, 6th " "	1·34	Weather for the most part rainy or cloudy. It is reported that the "sani" insect is attacking the crops in the neighbourhood of Sudharam. Its appearance is attributable to the prevalent close cloudy weather. In Sundeep, Lucklhéopore, and other outlying thannahs the prospects are generally good. The late rice is being reaped. Exportation is going on and prices slightly rising. There is cholera both in the interior and the Sudder Station.
26	Tipperah, 12th " "	Nil.	Weather seasonable. The amun dhan is being reaped and prospects have not varied since last report. Large exportations to districts, even as far as Benares and Ghazipore, are going on, but in spite of this there has been a slight fall in prices, indicating that the store of aus dhan must be larger than was estimated. The prospects of the winter crops are somewhat better, and the recent rain has done good to so much of the mustard as had not flowered. Cholera has not abated.
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts, 6th Dec. 1873.	·75	Cloudy from the 1st to the 5th December, with slight and occasional falls of rain. There has been no cold weather throughout the whole week, and the temperature has been most unseasonable. The cotton is now being collected. The seeds of tobacco, mustard, and other cold weather crops are being sown; in some places they have germinated, and the prospects are generally good. There seems no dread of scarcity, but in some of the local markets there has been a rise in the price of rice, which is attributable to a corresponding rise in the Chittagong markets.
	Hill Tipperah, 6th " "	0·76	Cloudy and showery throughout the greater part of the week; unseasonably warm both day and night. The paddy is being reaped and is generally turning out better than was anticipated. The showery weather, though good for whatever cold weather crops there are, has given rise to apprehensions of damage by insects to the paddy still uncut. Prices have risen probably in consequence of this.
BEHAR.			
PATNA DIVISION.			
28	Patna, 15th " "	Nil	Mornings and evenings very cold. No rain has fallen, but the heavy dews at night do much good to the young rubbee crops which look well where they have germinated. The rice is being cut in Behar and a one-third crop is expected. The health of the district good.
29	Gya, 13th " "	Nil	Cool, cloudy on the 10th, but no rain fell. The rice crop is being harvested. A six-anna crop is expected. The rubbee is thriving well wherever water is available, but rain is much wanted. The prices are about stationary. The health of the district is good.
30	Shahabad, 13th " "	Nil	Cloudy and threatening on the 10th, clear and cold during the rest of the week. Little change since last week. Prices are stationary. The rice crop, where it has been saved, is being harvested. Land is still being ploughed and sown with cold weather crops wherever possible.
31	Tirhoot, 13th " "	Nil	Seasonable, cold and clear. In Seetamarhee sub-division the dhan is being cut and harvested in places where it has not already been cut as fodder for cattle. In Pergunnahs Basatri Mahuid, Ladunai, and Nanpore there will be an one to two-anna crop. The time for sowing the rubbee crop is now passed. But if rain falls cheena and moog will be sown at once. The rahur, mustard, and wheat are coming on well where irrigation has been practicable. In the Durbhungah sub-division the rice that has come to maturity is being reaped. The crop will not exceed all round an average of two annas. No change in the rubbee prospects. Rahur and janera still look well. In the Madhobani sub-division a three-anna rice crop is expected. The rubbee crops which have only been sown over little more than one-fifth of the ordinary area are languishing for want of rain. In the Sudder, Hajepore, and Tajpore sub-divisions the crops hold out surprisingly. The outturn of the rice crop for the whole district cannot be estimated at more than two to three annas.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date.
BEHAR.—(*Contd.*)			
PATNA DIVISION.—(*Contd.*) 32	Sarun, 13th Dec. 1873.	Nil	Seasonable and cold, west wind prevailing. Paddy is being harvested. It is believed that three-fourths of the ordinary rubbee area have been sown, and where sown the crops have germinated, and with the exception of one-tenth on unfavorable soils, which has since been killed by the long drought are still doing fairly, and will yield half an average outturn in the event of rain falling within this month. Irrigation is steadily going on where practicable Poppy has been sown nearly everywhere and has germinated well. Indigo fields are being prepared for the coming season. Prices of food-grains steady.
33	Chumparun, 13th „ „	Nil	Weather cool West winds. The yield of late rice crop would be at the most about two annas. The rubbee plants are looking healthy on account of the beneficient night dews of the season. If it rains even in the latter end of December there is every hope of the cultivators harvesting ten to twelve-anna crop as then the season of sowing would not be over. To meet the scarcity in the face to some extent, the Koeris have largely planted cucumbers and pumpkins and other little vegetables.
BHAUGULPORE DIVN. 34	Monghyr, 13th „ „	Nil	Little or no change since last week. Rain is much wanted. It is doubtful whether the rubbee can come to maturity without rain. The crop however hitherto sown looks generally fair. No prospect of fresh sowings. Rice crops in Jamui gathered; yield two to six annas.
35	Bhaugulpore, 16th „ „	Nil	Aghani rice being rapidly reaped; about two annas outturn expected in Soopool sub-division; about nine annas in Modhepore; about eight annas in Sudder, and about ten annas in Banka sub-divisions Rubbee still promising General health very good.
36	Purneah, 13th „ „	Nil	No change in weather. The mustard still promises well, as also the arhar and janera. The rice crop in the west of Dhurmpore near the Kosi is wonderfully good, but is being exported The wheat and pulses require rain sadly. Prices, owing to the large importation, have fallen. New rice is coming into the market. No change on last week's report as regards eastern and northern parts
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs, 13th Dec. 1873.	Nil	Prospect of rain on the 11th and 12th, but only a few drops fell; the weather has now become bright and cold. No change in the state and prospect of the crops since last week.
ORISSA.			
ORISSA DIVISION. 38	Cuttack, 16th „ „	1·29	Weather very cool. Sarad crop is being reaped; outturn a fair average. Cold weather crops promising well. Public health excellent.
39	Pooree, 5th „ „	·88	Weather extremely bad; it is cloudy, with almost incessant rain and keen and chilly wind. The harvest of the loghoo or second rice crop is nearly completed. The recent rains have suspended all agricultural operations The late rice crop is ripening Cold weather crops coming on; both these crops are yet in good condition, but the continued bad weather prevailing the past eleven days will damage both the crops if it continues longer, otherwise the produce is expected to be fair. The rain and wind have laid down the paddy in some places and beat out the grains from the ears, while the ripening is retarded for want of sun. Considerable injury to the crops may be expected if the weather continues for some days more.
40	Balasore, 13th „ „	·60	Warm during the middle of the week. Rain on the 11th, since then the weather seasonable. Most of the paddy (quite twelve annas) has been cut. Miscellaneous crops doing well. Prices rather high throughout the district: at Bhadrakh twenty-five seers, and at Jellasore twenty-four per rupee.
CHOTA NAGPORE.			
	South-West Frontier Agency.		
41	Hazareebaugh, 13th Dec. 1873	Nil	Unsettled. Rain still holds off, though the cloudy weather give every promise of rain. It is now clear, bright, and cold The greater portion of the rice crop has been harvested, but nowhere has the outturn been a favourable one, ten annas being about the estimated quantity. The prospect of the rubbee is unfavourable, and unless revived by timely rain short crop is inevitable, specially as much land usually cultivated lies fallow from want of moisture. Prices much the same as in last week's report. Imports are being received in the north from Behar district. Rice is selling at Gawan at 15 seers to the rupee; on the east of Hazareebaugh it is selling at 15 and 14½ seers. Pergunnahs Aharee, Datura, Kunda, with part of Kurunpura and Chaie are said to have at least 82,000 maunds stored in mahajun's golahs. Petty thefts of standing crops have increased in frequency. No heinous crime during the last four weeks.
42	Lohardugga, 13th „ „	Nil	Cloudy and warm for the season. There was a sharp shower of rain on the evening of the 10th, but which appears to have been very partial The whole of the dhan has been cut. The general average outturn in the sudder division is nearly twelve annas; the oil-seeds are not so good and will scarcely give a ten-anna crop on the whole The prospects of the rubbee crops are very bad owing to the total absence of rain in the district. In Palamow a six anna crop of dhan is still expected and about an eight-anna crop of oil-seeds. The rubbee crops there are dying for want of rain, and in some parts are suffering from the attacks of insects.

No.	District and date of return.	Rainfall at Sudder Station in inches.	Character of the weather, state and prospects of the crops, and state of health at date
CHOTA NAGPORE.—(*Contd.*)			
	South-West Frontier Agency.—(Contd.)		
43	Singbhoom, 6th Dec. 1873	Nil	No rain, but weather still threatening. Nothing to add to the last weekly report. The crops have nearly all been cut and matters stand as before. There has been a slight rise in the price of rice since last week.
44	Maunbhoom, 13th „ „	0 26	A good shower fell in the Sudder Station on the night of the 10th. No news whether similar rain has fallen in the interior. The state of things same as in last report; only the influx of new rice into the market has caused the price to fall a little, the average price now being 18½ seers for the rupee. No knowing as to the effect of the rain in the interior.
ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS			
45	Goalparah, 6th „ „	Nil	Weather cool, nights and mornings foggy. No material change in the state and prospects of the crops.
46	Kamroop,	....	Return not received.
47	Durrung, 5th „ „	Nil	Bright weather easterly breeze, daily range of temperature high. No change in the prospect of the outturn of the rice crop.
48	Nowgong, 5th „ „	Nil	Weather clear again and seasonable, with heavy dews at night and dense foggy mornings. The clouds at the beginning of the week passed away and only a few drops of rain fell. The rice crop, ripe and being rapidly cut and gathered in. The crop on the whole will be an average one. Kalai crop poor; mustard and sugarcane doing well. Tea operations over for the season, and pruning of the bushes already commenced on some estates. The general health of the district good.
49	Seebsaugor, 6th „ „	Nil	No change in weather. A slight shock of earth-quake was felt at Golaghat on the 2nd instant. The prospect of the rice crop unchanged. Harvesting has commenced. Mustard crop backward for want of rain.
50	Luckimpore, 6th „ „	Nil	Heavy fogs every morning. Nights cold. A hot sun during the day. Thermometer, maximum 73°, minimum 53°. Sali rice crop being cut is expected to prove not far short of an average one. Mustard sowing completed; cold weather crops generally continue promising. Public health much the same as before; low fever rather prevalent.
51	Naga Hills, 28th Nov. 1873	Nil	Weather seasonable, mornings and evenings chilly and cold. Cotton is being gathered and stored, the yield is below the average. A small quantity of rice was brought down to Samagoodting for sale by Nagas from the higher ranges.
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills, 5th Dec. 1873.	Nil	Morning bright sun, afternoon generally cloudy. There is no rice standing now, the whole of it has been harvested; the murwah is doing well.
53	Garo Hills, 6th Dec. 1873.	Nil	Fair. On some days rather hazy; less clouds this week, and nights clear. There has been no wind to injure the cotton which is still uncollected. The Garos have commenced jooming in some parts. Little to be said regarding the crops in the hills.

Published for general information.

CALCUTTA, STATISTICAL DEPT.,
The 16th December 1873.

R. KNIGHT,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Govt. of {1873} Bengal.

STATISTICAL DEPT.

Progs. 1873.

File

No. B.

Statement showing rainfall, weather, state and prospects of the crops in the different districts of Bengal, as reported to Government during the week ending the 13th December

PRICE CURRENT OF FOOD-GRAINS AND SALT IN THE UNDER-MENTIONED DISTRICTS OF BENGAL ON THE 13TH DECEMBER 1873

PRICES-CURRENT of Food-grains and Salt in the under

Number.	DISTRICTS	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY																		
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, DESI SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			BULLRUSH MILLET—CUMBOO, BAJRA		
		Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
	BENGAL.															
	Western Districts.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S Ch.
1	Burdwan	10 8	11 0	12 8	20 0	20 0	22 0	14 8	13 8	19 0	15 12	15 4	23 4	...	...	...
2	Bancoorah	12 8	11 4	14 0	20 0	20 0	18 12	11 0	11 4	15 4	A 14 8 B 16 4	A 15 0 B 16 4	18 0	...	...	..
3	Beerbhoom	10 8	10 0	12 8	..	...	...	11 4	10 8	16 0	13 8	14 4	24 0	...		...
4	Midnapore	10 0	10 0	10 10	...	...	...	13 0	14 0	18 0	19 0	19 8	26 0	...	...	...
5	Hooghly	11 8	12 0	12 8	...	...	...	9 4	9 4	13 0	13 0	12 8	18 0	...	...	...
	Howrah	12 0	12 0	14 0	..			11 0	10 11	16 0	18 0	13 0	30 0	..	...	..
	Central Districts.															
	Calcutta	11 7	11 0	...	18 0	18 0	...	9 8	8 14		18 4	12 13	...	...	..	...
6	24-Pergunnahs			12 0	...	...	20 0	9 0	8 12	8 0	11 14 16 4	11 14 15 3	18 12	.	..	...
7	Nuddea	11 15	11 7	14 8	20 0	20 0	32 0	11 7	11 7	16 0	13 1	12 3	17 12	..	...	...
8	Jessore	10 4	11 0	13 5	...	...	...	12 8	12 8	17 12	18 4	18 4	26 10	...	.	...
9	Moorshedabad	13 0	12 0	16 0	...	...	...	10 0	11 0	14 0	13 0	12 0	20 0		...	.
10	Dinagepore	11 0	11 0	12 0	14 8	14 8	22 8	12 8	12 8	20 0	14 8	14 8	27 8	...	...	...
11	Maldah	12 8	12 8	15 0	22 0	24 0	35 0	11 4	11 8	22 0	12 0	12 8	23 0	20 0	20 0	22 0
12	Rajshahye	10 14	10 8	14 4	18 12	24 0	32 0	11 4	12 0	16 8	12 12 to 13 8	13 8	23 7		...	...
13	Rungpore	11 2	10 2	11 5	...	...	...	11 4	11 4	15 0	15 0	14 1	30 0	...	...	...
14	Bograh	12 0	12 8	14 0	..	...	...	9 12	9 12	22 0	12 12	15 0	37 8	...	...	..
15	Pubna	15 0	14 4	15 0	.	..	.	10 0	9 12	12 0	17 4	15 12	30 0	...	...	..
16	Darjeeling	5 0	5 0	6 0	3 0	3 0	10 0	5 0	5 0	12 0	10 0	10 0	14 0	...	..	...
17	Julpigoree	9 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	12 0	13 0	...	16 0	10 0	...	...	...	...
	Cooch Behar															
	Eastern Districts.															
18	Dacca	10 4	10 8	13 5	20 0	21 8	20 0	13 0	12 0	21 0	A 16 0 B 18 0	14 0	32 0	...	...	...
19	Furreedpore	14 0	14 0	20 0	...	..	..	8 0	8 0	10 0	A 18 0	16 0	25 0	..	...	...
20	Backergunge *															
21	Mymensing	10 0	10 0	12 0	..	..	..	13 0	13 0	20 0	A 16 0	17 0	32 0	...	...	..
22	Sylhet‡	8 0	8 0	11 0	7 0	7 0	..	12 4	12 4	25 8	19 4	19 4	38 8	...	...	...
23	Cachar‡	8 6	8 10	9 6	..	.	...	12 4	13 5	16 0	15 4	17 12	27 14	...	...	...
24	Chittagong‡	8 0	8 0	15 0	...	...	...	12 0	14 0	16 0	16 0	20 0	27 0	...	..	...
25	Noakhally‡ . ..		...	...	...	...	...	9 0	12 0	16 0	15 0	17 0	21 0	...	..	...
26	Tipperah	9 8	9 0	12 0	...	..	..	15 0	14 8	20 0	16 to 17	15 to 16	32 8	...	...	..
27	Chittagong Hill Tracts‡ . ..	..	..		...	...	. .	13 5	13 6	16 0	13 13	13 13	17 14	...	...	..
	Hill Tipperah‡ ...	8 0	...	11 4	..	...	..	11 4	13 3	26 6	17 7	20 0	10 0	...	..	...

* Return not received.

‡ Return for the week ending th December received after the publication of the last Gazette.

mentioned districts of Bengal on the 13th December 1873.

THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire-wood.			Salt.			Districts.
Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
																		BENGAL.
																		Western Districts
S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	14 8	21 0	90 0	90 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	Burdwan.
...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	19 0	35 0	16 4	16 0	18 0	360 0	360 0	...	8 2	8 2	8 8	Bancoorah.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 8	11 4	21 0	240 0	240 0	200 0	8 12	8 12	8 8	Beerbhoom
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 0	13 4	16 0	180 0	180 0	180 0	8 4	8 4	8 8	Midnapore
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 8	13 8	20 8	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	Hooghly.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 0	14 8	20 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	Howrah.
																		Central Districts.
10 0	10 0	...	...	...	...	16 7	16 11	...	14 5	13 5	...	110 0	110 0	...	8 14	8 14	...	Calcutta.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 8	13 0	17 12	120 0	100 0	...	9 0	8 12	9 3	24-Pergunnahs.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 4	15 4	20 10	120 0	120 0	...	8 10	8 10	8 14	Nuddea.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 0	15 0	20 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 14	8 0	Jessore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	27 0	120 0	120 0	...	9 0	9 4	8 12	Moorshedabad.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 8	10 4	30 0	160 0	160 0	...	7 8	7 8	7 8	Dinagepore.
...	...	...	16 0	16 0	24 0	21 0	22 0	24 0	12 0	13 0	20 0	160 0	160 0	140 0	8 4	8 0	8 0	Maldah.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 8	13 8	...	400 0	400 0	...	8 2	8 2	...	Rajshahye.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 4	11 4	16 5	107 0	128 0	150 0	7 8	7 8	7 8	Rungpore.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 12	11 0	12 0	67 8	66 0	60 0	7 8	7 8	8 0	Bograh.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0	13 8	26 4	200 0	200 0	...	8 4	8 4	8 8	Pubna.
...	...	...	8 0	8 0	13 0	18 0	16 0	18 0	7 0	6 12	8 0	200 0	200 0	200 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	Darjeeling.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 0	10 0	...	160 0	160 0	...	6 0	6 5	...	Julpigoree.
																		Cooch Behar.*
																		Eastern Districts.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	10 10	1 0	80 0	80 0	...	8 15	8 15	8 9	Dacca.
...	...	...	13 8	14 0	21 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Furreedpore
																		Backergunge.*
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 0	9 0	18 0	...		...	8 4	8 4	8 8	Mymensing.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	19 4	107 0	107 0	...	8 8	8 8	7 0	Sylhet ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	10 10	14 10	64 0	61 0	64 0	7 9	8 0	8 0	Cachar ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 0	11 8	18 0	110 0	160 0	160 0	8 8	8 0	8 8	Chittagong ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	10 0	3 0	280 0	280 0	...	7 8	7 8	8 0	Noakhally ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 8	9 8	18 0	...	...	...	8 12	8 12	9 0	Tipperah
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320 0	320 0	...	7 4	7 4	8 0	Chittagong Hill Tracts ‡
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 5	8 0	10 6	12 0	12 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Tipperah ‡

A Old.
B New.
C Bundles.

PRICES-CURRENT of Food-grains and Salt in the undermentioned

Number.	DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE BY																	
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			DLEWEE MILLET—CUMBOO, BAJRA		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
	BEHAR.															
28	Patna ...	16 4	16 4	24 0	19 0	18 8	31 4	12 0	12 0	...	14 8	14 8	21 0	...	...	...
29	Gya ...	11 0	10 8	15 0	16 0	12 8	32 0	9 0	9 0	12 0	11 4	10 8	20 0	...	...	...
30	Shahabad ...	14 0	14 0	15 0	19 0	18 0	28 0	13 0	12 4	12 0	14 0	14 0	19 0	17 8	18 0	...
31	Tirhoot ...	11 0	10 0	14 0	18 0	18 0	20 0	9 8	10 8	16 0	11 0	12 0	18 0	...	...	...
32	Sarun ...	14 0	12 8	14 8	18 0	18 0	32 0	9 0	9 0	15 0	13 8	12 0	20 0	...	...	...
33	Chumparun ...	11 0	11 0	16 0	19 0	20 0	34 0	9 0	9 0	12 0	13 0	13 0	27 0	...	...	...
34	Monghyr ...	13 6	13 6	18 9	19 9	21 0	34 6	9 4	9 4	14 7	13 6	13 6	18 9	...	...	...
35	Bhagulpore ...	12 10	12 10	16 8	18 15	20 3	25 1	A 10 1 B 12 10	A 10 1 B 12 10	21 7	A 11 6 B 13 14	A 11 6 B 13 1	24 0	...	...	...
36	Purneah ...	12 0	11 0	17 0	...	...	40 0	10 0	9 0	25 0	11 0	10 0	27 0	...	...	...
37	Sonthal Pergunnahs ...	11 0	11 0	14 0		...		12 8	12 8	16 0	14 0	14 0	21 0	20 0	20 0	30 0
	ORISSA															
38	Cuttack‡ ...	13 2	13 2	15 12	...	...	...	17 1	17 1	19 11	24 15	23 10	14 2			...
39	Pooree ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 8	27 8	...	29 0	36 0	...	...	...	...
40	Balasore ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	32 0	...	...	...
	CHOTA NAGPORE.															
	South-West Frontier Agency															
41	Hazareebaugh ...	10 0	10 0	16 8	16 0	16 0	20 0	8 0	8 0	12 0	13 8	13 8	18 8	...	...	...
42	Lohardugga ...	9 0	11 0	11 0	...	15 0	19 0	15 0	13 0	22 0	17 0	17 0	24 0	...	...	...
43	Singhbhoom‡ ...	14 0	14 0	16 0	20 0	20 0	22 0	16 0	16 0	24 0	22 0	24 0	30 0	...	...	...
44	Maunbhoom ...	10 8	10 8	14 0	...	...	24 0	14 0	14 0	24 0	16 0	16 0	26 0	...	...	...
	ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS															
45	Goalpara‡ ...	11 0	10 0	20 0	...	...	...	12 0	12 0	16 0	13 0	13 0	19 0	...	...	...
46	Kamroop‡ ...	10 0	7 0	10 0	...	...	...	10 0	10 8	13 0	16 0	12 0	20 0	...	...	...
47	Darrung‡ ...	9 0	10 0	10 0	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	13 0	16 0	16 0	15 0	...	...	...
48	Nowgong‡ ...	16 0	16 0	16 0	...	...	...	11 0	11 0	12 0	16 0	16 0	20 0	...	...	...
49	Seebsaugor‡ ...	...	...	18 0	...	...	16 0	8 0	8 0	12 0	10 0	12 0	18 0	...	...	...
50	Luckimpore‡ ...	7 0	8 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	6 0	5 8	7 0	10 0	11 0	13 8		...	...
51	Naga Hills.*															
52	Khasi & Jynteah Hills‡ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 0	9 0	12 0	9 0	12 0	14 0	...	...	...
53	Garo Hills.*															

A Old.
B New.
* Return not received.
‡ Return for the week ending 6th December received after the publication of the last *Gazette*.

CALCUTTA,
The 16th December 1873.

districts of Bengal on the 13th December 1873.—(Continued.)

THE SEER OF 80 TOLAHS.

Great Millet—Cholum, Jowar.			Lesser Millets—Ragi or Murwa, and Cheena.			Maize or Indian-corn.			Gram.			Fire-wood			Salt.			DISTRICTS.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
																		BEHAR.
...	..	.	.	.	.	18 8	19 0	34 8	19 0	19 8	34 8	140 0	140 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Patna.
..	...	...	16 8	16 0	40 0	15 4	14 8	34 0	15 0	13 8	28 0	160 0	160 0	..	7 4	7 0	7 8	Gya
...	...	..	..	..	...	18 0	17 4	32 0	18 8	16 0	29 0	160 0	160 0	.	8 4	8 0	8 0	Shahabad
...	...	...	..	19 0	..	16 0	16 0	...	15 0	15 0	22 8	140 0	140 0	..	7 12	7 12	7 12	Tirhoot.
20 0	20 0	32 0	18 0	18 0	..	18 0	18 0	...	16 0	16 0	27 0	160 0	180 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Sarun.
...	..	..	21 0	21 0	40 0	20 0	20 0	35 0	16 0	16 0	26 0	...	...	..	7 4	7 4	7 4	Chumparun.
..	..	...	...	..	...	16 8	16 8	39 3	16 2	16 2	33 8	147 0	147 0	..	7 8	7 8	8 4	Monghyr.
..	...	...	...		..	17 11	17 0	39 2	15 12	15 2	27 12	176 0	176 0	164 0	8 3	8 3	8 3	Bhaugulpore.
..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	12 0	12 0	26 0	160 0	160 0	160 0	7 0	7 0	8 0	Purneah
..	...	...	25 0	24 0	..	20 0	20 0	50 0	15 0	15 0	20 0	480 0	480 0	..	8 0	8 0	8 0	Sonthal Pergunnahs.
																		ORISSA.
...	...		14 7	14 7	.	.	..	...	26 4	26 4	22 5	200 0	200 0	...	9 2	9 2	8 9	Cuttack ‡
...	..	..	.	...	..	..	..	..	.	...	...	190 0	190 0	...	8 0	8 0	.	Pooree.
...	..	.	...	.	...	...	.	...	10 0	10 0	10 0	280 0	280 0	...	7 0	7 0	9 0	Balasore
																		CHOTA NAGPORE South-West Frontier Agency.
...	...		19 8	20 0	..	.	16 0	30 0	13 0	13 0	24 0	240 0	240 0	...	6 12	7 0	7 8	Hazareebaugh.
...	...	...	26 0	32 0	...	20 0	20 0	32 0	11 0	12 0	16 0	180 0	180 0	...	6 8	6 12	6 0	Lohardugga
...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	16 0	16 0	18 0	320 0	320 0	..	6 0	5 8	6 0	Singhbhoom ‡
..	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	40 0	13 0	13 0	19 0	280 0	280 0	280 0	7 8	7 8	7 8	Maunbhoom.
																		ASSAM AND ADJACENT HILLS.
...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	13 0	12 0	13 0	160 0	160 0	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	Goalpara ‡
...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	8 0	10 0	.	...	..	8 0	8 0	7 8	Kamroop ‡
...	...	.	..		.	..	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	160 0	200 0	..	6 8	6 8	7 0	Durrung ‡
...	.	...	...	...		...	...	..	8 0	8 0	10 0	...	...	.	6 8	6 8	6 8	Nowgong ‡
...	.	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	8 0	8 0	8 0	120 0	120 0	...	6 8	6 8	6 0	Seebsaugor ‡
...	...	.	...	..	...	6 0	4 0	...	7 0	8 0	9 0	200 0	200 0	160 0	6 0	6 8	6 0	Luckimpore ‡
																		Naga Hills.*
...	..	...	..	..	...	..	...	...	6 4	6 4	8 0	160 0	160 0	...	5 4	5 8	5 0	Khasi and Jyntesh Hills ‡
																		Garo Hills.*

Published for general information.

R. KNIGHT,

Asst Secy. to the Govt of Bengal.

No. 28F, dated Patna, the 11th December 1873.

Memo. by—F. J. Hewitt, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Wards' Estates.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Statistical Department.

Famine Diary, 2nd period, from 15th November to 8th December 1873.

The date of despatch of this diary having been altered under the orders of Government in circular No. 87, Scarcity and Relief, dated 24th November, from the 1st to the 8th December, the present instalment will include a period of three weeks instead of a fortnight.

2. During this period, though the prospects of the crops have remained almost unchanged, any change being for the worse, yet great progress has been made in ascertaining the actual condition of the country, and the parts where distress was likely to be most severe, and also in making arrangements to meet the impending crisis.

3. The weekly reports sent up last Monday by the district officers will have given full information as to the state and prospects of the different districts in the division, and since then but little additional information has come in, and all that has come is of a comparatively cheering character. I think we may now say that if we have rain during the month of December, though there will be a good deal of distress, yet there will be no actual famine except in certain parts which are now pretty well ascertained. There are the Morar and Dhaboul pergunnahs in the Sarun district, the Ramnugger pergunnah in Chumparun, and a large portion of the Mudhobani and Durbhangah sub-divisions in Tirhoot. The first tract lies in the north-west of the Sarun district, and is entirely comprised in the estate of the Hutwa Raja The crops have failed here for two years successively, and it was here that relief works were started as reported in my previous diary in October. The distress here is reported as becoming more severe, and people are flocking to the relief works, and those that are asking for employment are not only the members of the ordinary laboring castes, but there are also a considerable number of Brahmins and Bahbuns who would generally despise manual labor who are now coming to the works. People are said to come from a distance of five and six miles for work, going back to their houses at night.

4. The second tract is situated in the extreme north of the Chumparun district, and its condition has been fully reported by the Collector of Chumparun in his narrative up to the 29th November. Since then nothing fresh has been heard of the tract, except that the distress appears to be increasing, to judge by a police report which has come in of an investigation in a reported dacoity in the Shikarpore outpost. The case came to nothing, but the investigation showed that during the last few weeks several attempts at robbery by more or less organised bands had been made.

5. The Collector of Chumparun has given his special attention to this part of the country, and relief works have been started, as already reported by him to Government in his letter No. 70F of the 6th instant.

6. In the populous tracts of Durbhangah and Mudhobani in which there is a prospect of severe famine, distress will not probably show itself for some months to come, for, though the rice crops have almost totally failed, and there is little or no prospect of a rubbee crop, yet all reports concur in stating that the ryots have considerable stocks in hand sufficient to last for some months to come. The greater portion of this tract belongs to the Durbhangah Raj, and large sums are being expended by the Court of Wards from the funds of the estate to provide for future requirements, and a great deal will be done by indigo planters, who have accepted advances largely to buy rice, to be retailed at prices sufficient only to cover all costs. There are also considerable stocks in the hands of the mahajuns, so that though this tract will require to be closely watched and careful provision will have to be made for future contingencies, yet for the present there is no pressing need for vigorous action, and the relief works set on foot by the Court of Wards and the district authorities will fully provide for the wants of the people, who do not yet seem to want employment to any great extent, as the indigo planters and persons who have some hope of a rubbee crop absorb a great deal of labor. In the remainder of the division except in the consierable tract in Shanabad and the small tract in Gya irrigated from the canal, almost everything depends upon the rainfall. If any district has a good fall of rain in all December, the people will probably suffer but little, but the longer the rain holds off the greater the distress will be. Already reports are received of a considerable quantity of the rubbee crops which have been sown and have germinated being damaged by caterpillars, and as long as rain holds off this will probably go on. On the other hand, it is a cheering sign that everywhere the people are reported to be exerting themselves and irrigating their lands from water channels where available, and where there is no surface water digging wells, and by this means I believe that a great deal of crop

Since writing the above, reports of distress at Hathi in the Mudhobani sub-division have come in.
F. J. H

will be saved under the worst circumstances, though it must be recollected that if rain holds off water will hardly be procurable from cutcha wells, except in the most favored tracts, to irrigate the crops till they reach maturity.

7. The knowledge that Government was prepared to help the people by importing grain and the personal exertions of the district officers seem certainly to have produced a good effect in stimulating the energies of the people, and there is a marked contrast between the reports that come in now and those that were first received. At first every report spoke of the apathy of the people and their unwillingness to do anything to help themselves, whereas now they are said to be working energetically to do all that can be done.

8. One result of Government importation must not, however, be passed over—its effect on private trade. Up to the end of November private importations were unusually brisk, 2,27,271 maunds being imported into the Arrah district during November, against about 5,000 maunds imported during the corresponding period last year; and to the Patna district the importations by rail (those by river are insignificant) were 1,71,408 maunds during the last fortnight in November. As Government had hardly got in any grain up to that time, these importations were entirely made by private traders.

9. Now, however, I am informed that receipts by Patna merchants have almost ceased, but to what extent cannot be known till the railway returns come in; and in the last week in November a decline was noticeable, the imports being only 72,250 against 97,158 maunds in the previous week. From the smaller country towns the same report comes in, and the Deputy Collector of Behar wrote the other day to the Collector of Patna to ask him not to send rice for the present, as he was afraid that the coming of Government rice would stop private trade, as had already been the case in the adjoining parts of Monghyr.

10. The idea that has at present possessed the minds of the people is, that Government intends to support them all, and that there is no necessity for them to do anything for themselves, while the traders think that it is no use exerting themselves actively in the hope of getting large profits if Government is to keep down the price by large importations. Efforts to eradicate these notions are being made; but in the meantime, with a chance of dire famine before us, and the certainty of severe distress, it is absolutely necessary that the danger of temporarily stopping private trade must be encountered, for it is just in these districts which are inhabited by the poorest people, and which ordinary traffic will not assist, that immediate help is wanted; and even in the rich and populous tracts where famine is imminent the quantity of food needed will tax all the resources both of Government and private traders, and it is by no means safe to trust merely to the latter. Though I believe the cessation to be merely temporary, the matter is one that requires careful attention, and no effort should be spared to disabuse the people of the idea that Government intends to take upon itself to provide food for the whole population.

At present, except perhaps in the north of Chumparun, there is no scarcity of food in the bazaars, and purchasers can find ample supplies at prices generally somewhat below those selling a month ago.

11. Advances have been largely given in the districts to the north of the Ganges, principally to European planters, but in Tirhoot four native gentlemen have taken advances to the amount of Rs. 25,000. These advances have all been given without interest on condition of selling grain at cost price. The following are the amounts given in each district:—

	Rs.
Tirhoot	1,50,000
Sarun	27,500
Chumparun	70,000

12. In the district south of the Ganges two native zemindars of the Patna district, Moulvi Syud Fuzlul Ruhman and Darogah Aminuddeen, have taken advances to the amount of Rs. 10,000 each.

13. With regard to relief works, but few purely relief works have yet been started, the ordinary work on the district roads having been hitherto found quite sufficient to employ all those in want of labor, and it is only in the north-west part of Sarun—at Hathi in the Mudhoobani sub-division and in the north of the Chumparun district—that any relief works properly so called have been started. In the Morar and Dhaboul pergunnah belonging to the Hutwa Raj, six roads are being made and some 35 tanks deepened at the cost of the estate, and give employment to about 4,500 persons daily. At Hathi the work on road from that place to Singhia is only just reported to have been begun, and no statements of the numbers employed have been received, nor have any returns yet come in from Chumparun. The largest return of laborers from any district yet received is from Sarun, where 12,200 persons daily are said to be employed on relief works; but of these 4,500 are employed, as above stated, in the Hutwa estate, and of the remainder 1,700 are employed on works in the town of Sarun, where there is a considerable urban population of limited means, who are glad of work in times of high prices, and the remaining 6,000 is not a large number for the 21 roads in the district on which repairs are going on simultaneously.

14. In the other districts no great demand for work is reported. In the southern division of the Patna district, when contract work was put a stop to, a considerable number of laborers, about 200 a day, came for some days, but refused to do any work, saying that Government must pay them whether they worked or not, and when they found that serious work was expected of them they went away and have not come since.

15. It is useless giving lists of the relief works proposed in this report, as to do so would be merely to fill it up with names of places, which, without a knowledge of the localities, can convey no information whatsoever; but elaborate schemes of relief works have been made out for each district, and sketch maps are being prepared, and have, I believe, in some cases been submitted direct to Government showing the works proposed in each district, together with the relief centres and storage places for grain selected These will, I believe, be found to convey the necessary information in a much more useful form than a detailed list in a report like the present. As it is only within the last ten days that grain in large quantities has begun to come in, the only transport that has yet been fairly tested is that furnished by boats to Revelgunge and Gobindgunge in the Sarun and Chumparun districts respectively, and there has been as yet no serious difficulty experienced in getting boats for the large quantities of grain that have been sent off up to date. The quantities despatched by boat from Patna up to Saturday, the 6th instant, to each of the above-mentioned places was as follows:—

To Gobindgunge.

Mds.	
12,882	of Burmah rice for the Gunduck embankment
10,974	of rice and mixed grain for district relief works.
23,856	

To Revelgunge.

9,073	of rice and mixed grain
Total 32,929	

Besides these consignments 2,000 maunds had been sent to Bucktearpore for transmission to Gya, making a total of 34,929 maunds out of 36,839 maunds received up to date.

16. Since then large consignments have been daily coming in, and the amounts despatched to Revelgunge and Gobindgunge up to the 10th may be roughly stated (for I have not got the exact figures) at 16,000 maunds to each for district relief works, exclusive of Burmah rice; and besides this about 15,000 maunds have been sent to Gya to be stored at Urwal in accordance with the requisition of the Collector. About 11,000 maunds of rice have been sent from Calcutta to Barh and thence to Tirhoot in order to test the land transport of that district, and arrangements are being made for sending a consignment *via* Hajipore within the next few days, so that I hope by the time I write my next fortnightly report to be able to give details as to the transport of four out of the six districts of the division. As for the remaining two—Shahabad and Patna—consignments are to be made to the former district in the next week or ten days, and till the wants of the other districts are satisfied there will be no necessity for making arrangements for Patna, where distress, even under the worst circumstances, will be less severe than elsewhere, and where relief can be given much more readily and quickly than to more remote and inaccessible districts. Besides the grain imported by Government there have been large orders given by managers of the Hutwa and Durbhangah estates, and up to the morning of Monday, the 8th, 18,000 maunds had been despatched from Patna to Revelgunge for the former estate; and the latest accounts state that 20,000 maunds of rice have reached Monghyr and been despatched to Durbhangah, while I have since heard of 9,000 maunds of makai and barley being sent from the North-West to Monghyr to be sent on to Durbhangah.

17. The grain ordered up to date by the Commissioner for the division is as follows:—

	Maunds.
From private buyers in the North-West and Patna by the Commissioner—	
Mixed grains	1,25,000
From private buyers in Chittagong and Patna (the rice coming in the latter case from Backergunge)—	
Rice	31,000
Total ...	1,56,000

Of this amount 1,04,000 maunds have been purchased, and have either been received or may be expected in the next few days, and the remainder will be brought before the end of the month. Besides this 45,000 maunds from the North-Western Provinces have been ordered through local dealers in Tirhoot for relief works in that district, and from 20 to 30,000 maunds by the Collectors of Gya, Sarun, and Chumparun, making a total of about 2,31,000 maunds actually ordered for relief works in the division, and there is a possibility of our being called on to take 40,000 maunds from the manager of Hutwa out of the 1,50,000 maunds of rice ordered by him. The Commissioner promised to do this if the manager found his purchases too large; but it is exceedingly doubtful whether it will be

available or not, as Mr. Hodgkinson has since reported that it is doubtful whether he will be able to get the amount of rice ordered by him within the limits of price fixed; and at any rate it will hardly be available till after the end of January, while all the rest of the grain will probably arrive before the end of the month.

18. Besides the grain imported by Government, considerable quantities have been imported by planters for the relief of their tenants, the Chumparun planters having ordered grain to the amount of 1,80,000 maunds, and the orders of the Court of Wards up to date are as follows :—

	Mds
For Hutwa estate	1,50,000
For Durbhangah	1,02,200

Of the Hutwa order, however, only about 1,00,000 maunds is expected. The Durbhangah grain will be distributed as follows :—

	Mds.
In Tirhoot	60,000
„ Naraidiggur, about	20,000
„ Khurrukpore	20,000
„ Purneah	3,200

19. The last consignment is intended to feed the survey party engaged in measuring the Dhurumpore estate in Purneah. The rest will be distributed in nine golahs in Tirhoot throughout those portions of the estate situated in the Seetamarhee, Mudhobuni, and Durbhangah sub-divisions, principally in the two latter. In Naraidiggur it will be stored along the roads in course of construction there, and at Khurrukpore at the irrigation works.

20. The question of providing fodder has been very fully considered, and arrangements are being made for providing stores of fodder along the principal lines of traffic, but full reports have not yet come in, and when they do so, they will be noted. At present there is, as a rule, fodder in abundance to be had, but arrangements must be made for providing fodder along the lines of transport if importations have to be continued after January.

21. Charitable relief has not as yet been found to be necessary, but places for relief centres have been fixed on, should they be required. No loans to municipalities or to landholders for improvements have been yet reported, though it is probable that some will be applied for soon, as the district officers have used every endeavour to make the liberal provisions made by Government, especially with regard to the cost of wells and other means of improving the water supply, known to the people.

22. In conclusion I have to apologize for the lateness and shortcoming of this report; but in the absence of the Commissioner, who has been away for the last ten days on tour, I have had a multiplicity of duties to discharge, which have so taken up my time as to leave me but little for other work.

23. Annexed is a statement of expenditure up to date, together with an abstract of the latest price currents received.

The 10th December 1873.

F. J HEWITT,
Deputy Commissioner.

Statement of Payment made in the several districts from the Relief Grant

Date.	To whom payable.	On what account.	Amount Rs	As.	P.
25th November 1873	Collector of Patna	For payment to Messrs Wilson, Deremie and Kinloch for purchase of grain	1,300	0	0
28th ditto "	Ditto	For payment to Messrs Charrier and Company for purchase of grain	7,175	0	0
28th ditto " "	Ditto	Advances to Fuzlul Rahman and Darogah Aminuddeen for purchase of grain	10,000	0	0
29th ditto "	Ditto	For purchase of fodder for cattle "	5,000	0	0
29th ditto "	Ditto	For transfer receipt to Mr Kinloch for purchase of grain	10,000	0	0
1st December "	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto ditto	130	0	0
4th ditto " ...	Ditto	Cost of transport of grain and other contingent expenses incurred by the Collector of Patna	2,700	0	0
5th ditto " "	Ditto	For remittance to Mr Wilson for purchase of grain	9,179	12	2
6th ditto " "	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto ditto	6,278	6	0
9th ditto " "	Ditto	For cost of transport of grain and other contingent expenses.	4,800	0	0
10th ditto " ...	Ditto	Transfer receipt to Mr. Wilson for purchase of grain.	9,848	8	8
10th ditto "	Ditto	Ditto ditto ditto ditto	6,581	15	8
10th ditto " ...	Ditto	For payment to Messrs. Charrier and Company for purchase of grain.	38,309	8	0
10th ditto " ...	Ditto	Advance to Huradur Baboo for purchase of grain	2,000	0	0
28th November "	Collector of Tirhoot	Ditto to private gentlemen	95,000	0	0
4th December "	Ditto	Ditto to Mr. Anderson	55,000	0	0
2nd ditto " "	Collector of Sarun	Ditto to " Llewhellin	10,000	0	0
1st ditto " ...	Ditto	Ditto to " Murray	7,500	0	0
4th ditto " "	Ditto	Ditto to " Llewhellin	10,000	0	0
8th ditto " ...	Ditto	For excavation of Suleinpore tank	500	0	0
9th ditto " ..	Ditto	Advance to Mr Wilson	10,000	0	0
28th November " ..	Collector of Chumparun "	Ditto to private gentlemen	70,000	0	0
		Total	5,20,002	11	8

F. J. HEWITT,
Deputy Commissioner.

Abstract of Prices-Current during the last two Weeks.

	Common Rice.		Barley.		Maize	
	Week ending 29th November.	Week ending 6th December	Week ending 29th November	Week ending 6th December	Week ending 29th November	Week ending 6th December.
	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch	S. Ch	S. Ch
Patna ... .. "	12 10	13 8	16 14	17 8	16 8	16 12
Gya	10 8	11 14	15 8	15 14	14 12	12 11
Shahabad	12 8	13 2	15 2	15 10	15 10	15 0
Tirhoot	11 14	12 0	17 15	18 0	16 2	16 0
Sarun	12 0	12 0	17 4	18 0	17 8	18 0
Chumparun	12 12	13 12	19 8	19 0	19 0	19 9
Average	12 0	12 11	17 0	17 4	16 8	16 5

F. J. HEWITT.
Deputy Commissioner.

W. F. B.